TALE OF 2 GENERALS: PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa is stepping, but AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Delfin Bangit is going.

SPORTS / A18
Celtics a win away from NBA title

SPORTS / A18
Germany destroys Australia; Slovenia pips Algeria

ACROSS / A17
Special polls sought in 2 Abra towns

PNP chief to give GMA 'exit briefing'

By Marlon Ramos

WHILE HIS MILITARY COUNTERPART has accepted early retirement and has begun bidding farewell to the troops, Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa—who is likely to keep his post under the new administration—is the one giving an "exit briefing" for his outgoing Commander in Chief.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to meet with senior police officials in Camp Crame at 2 p.m. today to whet

PNP CHIEF / A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Bangit set to retire early

'Emperor' begins bidding farewell to troops in camps

By Jocelyn R. Uy

GEN. DELFIN BANGIT has begun bidding farewell to his troops before ending a colorful military career capped by a last-minute appointment as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines that incoming President Benigno Aquino III refused to honor.

Bangit, who used "Emperor" as his code name when he was head of the intelligence service, yesterday visited troops of the 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, in preparation for his early retirement.

Lt. Col. Arnulfo Burgos Jr., AFP spokesperson, said the visit was the start of a round of farewells to say his thanks one last time to soldiers in military camps across the country.

Bangit told the troops to "remain professional" and "maintain the high level of professionalism exemplified during the 2010 elections," according to Burgos. "He also thanked all the personnel of the 2nd Infantry Division for their support given to him."

Today, the Supreme Court will tackle a petition by former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, head of the Philippine Bar Association, who questioned outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of Bangit, Lt. Gen. Reynaldo Mapagu as Army chief and Rear Adm. Feli-

BANGIT / A15

GETTING READY A boy gets a Sunday haircut for only P20 at a barbershop in Sampaloc, Manila. Below, a school teacher sweeps the floor at Old Balara Elementary School in Quezon City on Monday.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Sex education now a reality

By Philip C. Tubeza

SERIOUS WORRYING ABOUT CLASSroom shortages, textbook errors, and large classes, some teachers will now also have to worry about teaching sex education as more than 23 million students go back to schools today.

Despite opposition from the Catholic Church and some parents, the Department of Education (DepEd) will push through this school year with the pilot testing of sex education in 80 elementary schools and 70 high schools around the country.

The DepEd has been teaching sex education before as it was integrated in other subjects like Biology, but this time the Church is protesting a specific project of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to introduce the subject in schools.

Education officials insist that the bishops have nothing to worry about because the DepEd is open to deleting portions of

SEX EDUCATION A10

US kindergartners taught engineering

GLEN ROCK, NEW JERSEY—IN A class full of aspiring engineers, the big bad wolf had to do more than just huff and puff to blow down the three little pigs' house.

To start, he needed to get past a voice-activated security gate, find a hidden door and negotiate a few other traps in a house that a pair of kindergartners have imagined for the pigs—and then persuade together from index cards, paper cups, wood sticks and pipe cleaners.

"Excellent engineering," their teacher, Mary Monroe, told them one day early this month.

US KINDERGARTNERS A10

Aquino inaugural at Quirino, party in QC

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT-ELECT BENIGNO Aquino III will stick to the traditional venue in Manila for the inauguration of a new head of state but will kick off at Quezon Memorial Circle nationwide street parties on the same day.

At a press conference, Aquino said his transition team had suggested that the inauguration be held at Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park and that he make a formal request for Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales to swear him into office on June 30.

Aquino, however, was more excited about his transition team's plans for Quezon Memorial Circle where his celebrity VIP and common supporters would converge to kick off a string of street parties across the country to celebrate the end

AQUINO A11

Belmonte gets backing of militants in House

By Philip C. Tubeza

ANYBODY BUT GLORIA.

Aghast at the prospect of having a Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the opposition, a militant group's contingent in the House of Representatives wants to throw its support behind the Liberal Party (LP) candidate for Speaker, incoming Quezon City Rep. Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday said that his party-list group and its allies—Gabriela, Anakpawis, Kabataan and the Alliance of Con-

BELMONTE A6

Bus rented by Iranians had '666' plate number

CEBU CITY—THE TOURIST bus rented by Iranian medical students that plunged into a 50-meter ravine on Sunday had an ominous plate number: DW2-666, the "Number of the Beast" in the Bible's Book of Revelation.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but Senior Supt. Ernesto Digal said that the brakes apparently failed before the bus plummeted into the ravine in Balamban town, 60 kilometers outside Cebu, killing 20 Iranians and the Filipino driver and injuring 30 others.

Villagers and police pulled bodies from the mangled wreckage at the rocky bottom, while a backhoe sent by a nearby Japanese shipbuilding company attempted to lift the bus, said Lt. Col. Wilson Feria, the regional military spokesperson.

Cables were attached but the bus with 51 people aboard when it fell was too heavy and

BUS A16

Mangroves bring life back to a deserted shore

By Jonas Cabiles Soltes and Gina Rodriguez
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALARAMIA, CAMARINES Sur—Coastal residents of Barangay Cagsao here lost their homes to a storm surge spawned by Typhoon "Loleng" (international name: Bala), which swept through the towns fringing San Miguel Bay.

Twelve years after, the shore which the residents left is giving them a new lease on life.

The shore had once been made barren by the storm surge—the rising of seawater resulting from its being pushed by strong winds.

But the shore is now teeming with thousands of young man-

MANGROVES A16

STORM SHIELD Local residents walk past a young mangrove plantation in Barangay Cagsao, Calabanga, Camarines Sur.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/14	
10	29
25	8
17	17

SUERTRES

0	4 9
8	6 9
9	4 6

FOUR DIGIT

1 6 0 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45

1 8 19 24 26 43

P11,272,276.80

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

16 18 20 32 46 48

P12,522,230.80

Stop casino openings, bishops urge Aquino

By Tarra Quismundo

CATHOLIC BISHOPS YESTERDAY CALLED ON PRESIDENT-elect Benigno Aquino III to put a stop to the outgoing administration's plans to open more casinos around the country, stressing that gambling "destroys families and corrupts people."

In a pastoral letter released yesterday, Archbishop Socrates Villegas and six bishops from the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese urged the incoming President to stop the planned opening of two new casinos in Urdaneta City in Pangasinan and San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija.

"It is not legally possible to close all casinos immediately, we plead with the government not to open new ones," the bishops said.

"We appeal to the government to appropriately fight corruption and diminish poverty. One of the first steps the government must take is to stop the opening of more casinos," the letter said.

Bishops Jesefa Jose (Urdaneta), Mylo Hubert Vergara (San Jose), Antonio Filloni (San Fernando), Mario Peralta (Alaminos), Soliveste Bancud (Cabanatuan) and Renato Mayuga (Lingayen-Dagupan auxiliary) signed the letter dated June 14.

"The right step to relieve education for the children and livelihood aspects is service for the poor. Opening another casino—in Urdaneta and San Leonardo or in any other place—is a step deviating from our vision," the prelates said.

The church leaders said they were counting on Aquino's battle cry during the campaign against poverty and corruption.

Gambling would aggravate both problems, they said, as casinos would "open more doors for corruption" and lead to "the impoverishment of the families of gamblers."

"When the casinos operate now we see the ill effects on the socio-moral level of the citizenry—the rise of crime, stalling the spread of prosperities and the shameless corruption of those engaged in the business," they said.

"We appeal to the government to appropriately fight corruption and diminish poverty. One of the first steps the government must take is to stop the opening of more casinos," the prelates said.

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), which operates the casinos in the Philippines, is one of the top revenue-generating corporations of the government. It provides the multibillion-peso Presidential Social Fund.

Casinos, Pagcor officials had said, provide many jobs and serve as a magnet for tourists and foreign investments. Casinos and other leisure facilities are standard in most cities of the world.

SALN shows Noynoy entering Palace 'poorer' than GMA

By Gil Cabacungan

PRESIDENT-ELECT BENIGNO "Noynoy" Aquino III is entering Malacañang with less than a quarter of the net worth of President Macapagal-Arroyo when she became President in 2001.

Based on his 2009 statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), Aquino is worth P15.44 million, or 10 percent more than in 2008 when his net worth was P14.026 million.

Aquino ranks 14th among the 23 senators in terms of assets, with Sen. Manuel Villar as the richest (at P647.06 million) and Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV (P5.07 million) as the poorest.

In contrast, President Arroyo had a net worth of P67 million when she took office in 2001 after then President Joseph Estrada was deposed in a people power revolt.

Ms Arroyo's net worth more than doubled to P141 million by 2008.

Here are the senators' claimed net worth in 2009: Villar, P647.06 million; Loren Legarda, P145.61 million; Ramon Revilla, P123.73 million; Jinggoy Estrada, P64.63 million; Pia Cayetano, P75.85 million; Edgardo Angara, P64.2 million; Mar Roxas, P62.02 million; Loren Legarda, P48.54 million; Miriam Santiago, P40.3 million; Juan Miguel Zubiri, P38.28 million; Rodolfo Biazon, P38.09 million; Richard Gordon, P36.52 million; Panfilo Lacson, 24.33 million; Alexander Aquino, P17.63 million; Alan Peter Cayetano, P16.95 million; Lito Lapid, P13.9 million; Benigno Aquino II, P12.44 million; Francis Pangilinan P11.02 million; John Arroyo, P7.135 million; Aquilino Pimentel Jr., P3.69 million; Ona Jamalona P8 million; and Juanito Trillanes IV, P5.47 million.

Noynoy wants Mar, Chiz to make up

By Gil Cabacungan

NOT ONLY IS HE OUT TO NOGE THINGS up with his bitter rivals in the last elections but President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is also eager to settle the differences among his allies—specifically between his losing running mate Mar Roxas and Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, who endorsed Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay.

Escudero and Liberal Party campaign manager Florencio Abad Jr., a Bicol ally, met at Aquino's residence in Quezon City yesterday.

Interviewed by reporters outside the house, Aquino admitted that while an electoral protest to be filed by Roxas against Binay could be a thorny issue, he was confident the Roxas and Escudero camps could reach some sort of closure for the sake of the country.

"I will tell them that instead of concentrating on the things that we disagree on, we should concentrate on things that we agree on. We agree that there are many problems and that we cannot delay the solutions; and we agree that we have a responsibility to those depending on us to start solving our problems soon because we want to have the results as early as possible. I think everybody agrees to that," said Aquino.

Escudero arrived at Aquino's residence around mid-afternoon, a few minutes after Abad were inside.

Aquino said he was meeting with Escudero and Abad separately but that he was planning to sit them together at one table.

Aquino said he considered Abad a valued of the Liberal Party and that he was keen on giving the latter a part in his administration.

At the same time, Aquino said he considered Escudero a friend since they fenced themselves on the same side of the 1995 impeachment case against President Marapagal Arroyo. "We have friend summers course in old issues except for the candidacy of my partner [Mar Roxas]," said Aquino, who added that it was Escudero who asked for the meeting.

Aquino, however, stressed that he would not interfere in the reported leadership shake-up in the incoming Senate even if his LP peers and Escudero were among those being touted as the next Senate president.

"I have to respect the body it is one of the institutions that I have to rebuild because the Senate, by tradition, has to be independent and a [coalition], although I hope there would not be much need for them to function," he said.

He said he wanted to avoid a situation where the Senate's power to investigate—for example, the ₱366-ZTE deal—was hampered by the move of a Cabinet-affiliated bandog executive group, which weakened the Senate.

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"It's one of my top picks! Whenever I go for one of my facials, I also have STR done because I find that it really complements the facial treatments. It helps tone up my pores, so it gives my skin a fresh, glowing flawless feel."

– Agot Isidro-Semilyas, 43, Singer, Actress

"The STR lifts facial muscles, that's why it's one of my favorites. Every time I have it done, I immediately see what it does to my skin – it rejuvenates my complexion, tones it and it makes my skin look fresh and young-looking!"

– Carmi Martin, 47, Interior designer

"I like the STR because it's non-aggressive. I'm a coward when it comes to plastic surgery. With STR, it becomes a process of elevating the wrinkles, of lifting it gradually. At you say it does not show, you can really see the effects. And it's not painful at all. There's just tingling. It makes you feel that there's something happening, that it's working."

– Cherie Gil, 47, Actress

Aquino rejects joint meeting with GMA Cabinet

By Ed Cabuenagan, Jerome Aning and Christian Esguerra

PRESIDENT-ELECT BENIGNO Aquino III has rejected Malacañang's proposal that members of outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet hold a meeting with their counterparts in government's to work out a smooth transition of power on June 30.

"What does a joint Cabinet meeting hope to accomplish? How can there be two Cabinets in existence at the same time?" Aquino asked in turning down the offer.

Aquino said that a joint Cabinet meeting had never been held before. He added that Malacañang's job at the end of the administration's term was simple and no more complicated than handing over to the incoming administration the successor.

Two weeks before his Day One in Malacañang, Aquino remained tight-lipped about the identities of the members of his Cabinet. He said he wanted to give them time to say good-bye to their old bosses because they were under no actual time public scrutiny, a drop in compensation and pose a security risk for them and their families.

But he did say that almost all of the first choices had accepted his offer to be part of the President-elect's family.

Aquino also disclosed yesterday that he was considering asking ABS-CBN news correspondent Ricky Carandang to be part of the inner circle.

However, talks say that if Carandang is appointed at all, it will not be as press secretary.

"I have not talked to Ricky but he might help us in the media group," Aquino said in response to a query. "You really want to engage the treasury and part of that is having an effective communications strategy. It's not like after being elected, we'd just let our communications group take care of it, sell."

Carandang is not a member of the Aquino's Liberal Party but once joined a think-tank that had LP members on it. He resigned when his superior at ABS-CBN said there might be a conflict of interest issue in his membership.

Aquino also said that he would not be dictated upon when asked if he would accede to Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay's request that he be appointed chief of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"Mayor Binay and I will have to talk and level off on what he wants, what I can offer, what I need, and what is his competencies. It is his right to express his opinion but at the end of the day it is my Cabinet and I will be responsible on how it performs. I think I should be accorded the ability to choose who I want to serve at my sides ngs."

Aquino also refused to provide clues about his choice of chief of staff of the Armed Forces, that he said, "in order to be promoted to a four-star status, one has to be a three-star and there is a small circle of generals and admirals with three stars."

He said he would announce his entire Cabinet line-up shortly before his inauguration.

A person willing to serve in the Aquino administration is outgoing Batangas Gov. Edgardo Dimilin, who also belongs to the Liberal Party.

In an interview over Catholic Church-owned Radio Veritas yesterday, the prime-named politician said: "I'm willing to help this country and Noynoy Aquino in as far as it does not run in conflict with my priesthood. I believe that, at this point in time, yes and I am more needed as the Philippines Noynoy needs all our help."

Padilla was defeated in his reelection bid by Lilia Pineda of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

However, Padilla said Aquino had yet to offer him a public post. He added that election lawyer defeated candidates like him from being appointed to a public office for a year.

But yesterday Malacañang called on Aquino to keep qualified government employees—including the household staff of the Palace—once he assumed office.

"We hope they would also be given a chance [to keep their jobs] because they would not have entered those positions—some of them over-the presidents—if they weren't doing their job properly," Ilocos Sentitu-Hontiveros, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, said.

"If they were playing politics or something, they would not have lasted this long. We hope the incoming administration would also look at the merits of their performance."

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3rd Place

GRADE 6 TEAM COMPETITION

1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place

4TH YEAR TEAM COMPETITION

1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place

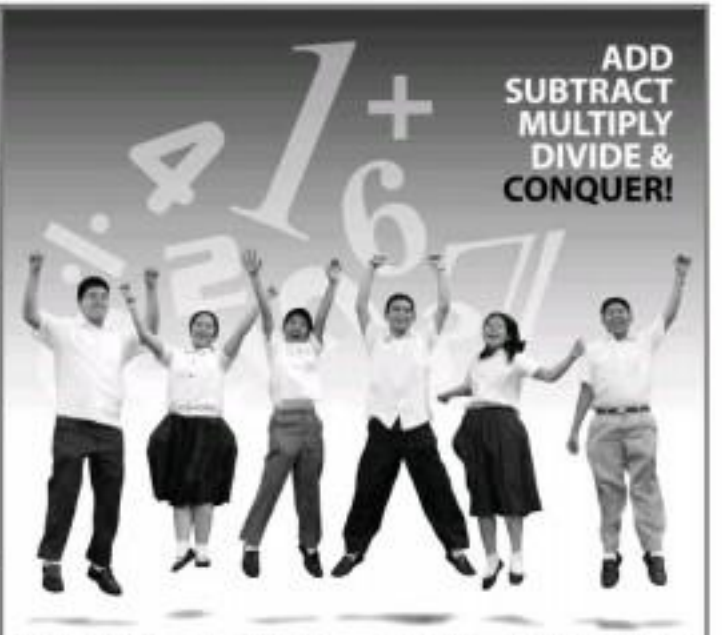
NATIONAL FINALISTS

GRADE 6 INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

GRADE 6 TEAM COMPETITION

4TH YEAR HIGH SCHOOL INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

4TH YEAR HIGH SCHOOL TEAM COMPETITION



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FIRST METRO

CA affirms discount for big power consumers

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS affirmed the discount promised to big power consumers by the arroyo administration under a special price incentive offer.

The appellate court recently upheld the decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) ordering the state-run National Power Corp. (Napocor) to refund P324.83 million to Cebu Pacific Steel Corp. (Capasteel) based on the P0.80 per kilowatt hour discount that was allowed from 2002 to 2003.

Capasteel, one of many industrial customers of Napocor, had complained that Napocor did not give it the promised discount under the Special Program to Enhance Electricity Demand (Speed) introduced in 2002.

The program offered power-intensive industries such as cement, glass and semiconductor firms a special discount if they committed power above the customer's baseline load. This was aimed at optimizing the power-generating capacity of existing power plants.

The Court of Appeals's 18th Division headed by Associate Justice Rosmari Carandang upheld Speed and denied Napocor's petition for certiorari against the ERC's orders dated Dec. 19, 2006, and May 18, 2009.

The ERC in 2006 ordered Napocor to grant Capasteel an P0.80/kWh discount on its energy consumption under the special incentive program for the period October 2002 to July 2003. In 2009, the ERC ordered Napocor to immediately refund Capasteel P324.83 million representing its Speed discount for the period.

In denying Napocor's petition, the appellate court said its role was not to interfere in executive functions. "Courts will not interfere in matters which are addressed to the sound discretion of the government agency entrusted with the regulation of activities coming under the principal and technical training and knowledge of such agency," the ruling said.

"Administrative agencies are given wide latitude in the evaluation of evidence and in the exercise of their adjudicative functions ...Ultimately, courts [are] given the authority to take judicial notice of facts within their special competence," the court said.

Associate Justices Rosmari Carandang and Manuel Barrios concurred in the decision.

Under the incentive program, the ERC ordered Napocor on Oct. 11, 2002, to grant discounts to qualified customers in the amount of P0.80/kWh in the Luzon grid, P0.50/kWh in the Cebu-Negros grid, and P0.12/kWh in the Mindanao grid.

Napocor successfully appealed the order the following year.

On Sept. 4, 2003, the ERC revised the discount rates to P0.50/kWh for certain power-intensive and distressed industries in Luzon and a zero discount rate for Cebu-Negros and Mindanao.

However, in September 2003, the ERC ordered MPC to explain why it only granted a discount of P0.50 instead of P0.80 to qualified big-ticket customers in Luzon for the period October 2002 to the first half of 2003.

In an order dated April 27, 2004, the ERC found that Napocor had violated its order and ordered it to give refunds to affected customers.

Capasteel had complained that it was only granted a discount under Speed in August 2003, and demanded a refund for its discount for the period October 2002 to July 2003.

'Twas a diving holiday for GMA off Cebu coast

By Jhanna Hapalla
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—LIKE MOST OF HER COUNTRYmen, President Macapagal-Arroyo took advantage of the Independence Day's holiday to relax...as one of the most popular diving sites in Cebu.

The President arrived here yesterday without fanfare and proceeded to Pescador Island, a popular marine sanctuary in the coastal town of Moalboal, 89 kilometers southwest of this city.

Her arrival here surprised many officials.

"It was a surprise, it was not a scheduled visit," said an airport official who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the matter.

Ms Arroyo arrived at Mactan-Cebu International Airport on the presidential plane at 9:30 a.m., according to the airport log.

Police Regional Office-Central Visayas (PRO-7) director Chief Supt. Leni D. Mendoza and some local officials met the President at the airport, according to Senior Supt. Elvis Digal, Cebu Provincial Police Office director.

Digal said he learned the President was coming to Cebu on Sunday evening while he was overseeing several operations at the scene of the van bus accident in Balamban.

Digal said that normally the police are informed of a presidential visit three or four days prior, but not this time.

He said that from the airport, President Arroyo motored to Malabuyoc as Supt. Isa' offered residence in Cebu, before boarding a helicopter for Moalboal where she took a boat to Pescador island. The presidential yacht MV Any Bangsda was anchored off the island and waiting for her.

Pescador Island is one of the top dive sites on Cebu's western coast. It is a 20-minute boat ride from the mainland town of Moalboal.

Digal said he was informed the President would be staying on the island overnight but that she might also decide to return to Malabuyoc or Sogbo on Monday after noon and spend the night there before returning to Manila.

Superior Riberal of the Philippine Information Agency in Cebu said they were not advised about the President's visit.

"Meaning it was a private visit and not meant for coverage," she said in a text message to the Inquirer.

CHEd chief is 'Bayani'

CLARK FREEPORT —President Macapagal-Arroyo conferred the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Grand Cross (Bayani) on Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) Chair Emmanuel Angeles here on Saturday.

Angeles was cited for his outstanding dedication and contributions to Philippine education.

"The Order of Lakandula, one of the highest honors given out by the Philippine government, is bestowed on deserving individuals in honor of Rajah Lakandula, the 16th century chieftain of Tondo, Manila Order No. 236, Ann Kialig, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Ang Pilipinas Ngayon is a patriotic advocacy program that aired last June 12, 2010, Araw ng Kalayaan, on ANC, ABS-CBN, TFC North America and TFC Canada. It was also heard on 10MM and DWIM.

The Ang Pilipinas Ngayon advocacy program is hosted by Fr. Anton Pascual, Executive Director of Caritas Manila, together with Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman. The Ang Pilipinas Ngayon advocacy program will take viewers on a comprehensive and encyclopedic wide assessment of the major developments in the country during the last two years that will surely make every Filipino proud.

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Discover what the Philippines is today. Watch the Ang Pilipinas Ngayon one hour launch program under the following schedule:

- On **ANC: June 19, Saturday, 10:30pm**
- On **Studio 23: June 21, Monday, 12 Noon**
- On **TFC North America and TFC Canada: June 20, Sunday, 8:15pm**

Additionally, on **ABS-CBN Channel 2** and **ANC** the Ang Pilipinas Ngayon advocacy spots will be aired during the commercial gaps of TV Patrol, Showbiz, Umagang Kay Ganda, The World Tonight, and Top Story.

The Ang Pilipinas Ngayon advocacy program is brought to us by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Stradcom, Philtranco, Petron, United Coconut Planters Bank, North Luzon Expressway, Development Bank of the Philippines, Landbank, Strategic Alliance Holdings, Inc., San Miguel Corporation and is produced by the Pangarap ng Pilipino Movement.

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'Harry Potter' author helps victims in RP

THE CENTER OF HOPE, A SAFEHOUSE for victims and survivors of human trafficking pursuing legal cases against their traffickers, was recently inaugurated on a lot purchased in part with the help of a sizable donation from J.K. Rowling, author of the famous "Harry Potter" series of books.

The building, which has two floors and a basement and sits on a 1,500 square-meter property in Antipolo City, was constructed by the Vinayan Avenue Foundation Inc. (VAFI) and the Angelo King Foundation.

VAFI, which has ongoing projects funded by the US government, has been working for the welfare and protection of children and women against child labor and human trafficking and has been concerned with the plight of domestic helpers.

The UK Embassy joined the VAFI, the Angelo King Foundation, Microsoft and Bayan Philippines in launching the Center of Hope on May 28.

The launch was attended by Leslie Ann, envoy, deputy chief of mission of the US Embassy, who was the guest of honor, as well as Justice Undersecretary Jose Vicente Salazar, civic and philanthropy groups, nongovernment organizations, law enforcement agencies and business groups.

Cecilia Horno-Orbinida, VFFI president and executive director, said the Center of Hope is their foundation's response to the lack of facilities to arrange and prepare victims for successful prosecution.

According to the United States of America Department of State Trafficking in Persons report, the Philippines is a major source and transit area for trafficking, specifically for forced labor and prostitution.

Cynthia D. Balana

Bring umbrellas, students told

HERE'S THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT FOR students on today's opening of classes: Bring your umbrellas.

Pfeiffenberger said it would be both rainy and sunny.

"Bring your umbrellas to protect you from the hot sun and also because it may rain in the afternoon," Nieto Ochoa, acting Administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Pagasa administrator Dr. Prisco Nilo said Luzon will have generally good weather with isolated showers.

The Visayas and Mindanao will have scattered showers due to the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ), Nilo added.

Saturday, the temperature reading at Pagasa's Science Garden in Quezon City at 1:30 p.m. was a high 36.1 degrees Celsius.

A maximum temperature of 35 degrees is expected in the country's capital today, and 36 degrees tomorrow.

Temperatures in the National Capital Region are rising due to a lull in the southwest monsoon, causing scattered rainshowers, Nilo explained.

Hilda Rivera

Belmonte gets backing of militants in House

From page A1

armed Reachers—were planning to cast their seven votes in the next Congress for Belmonte, who is building a grand coalition in the House.

The prospect of militant groups joining an LP majority in the House could turn out to be one of the earliest political realignments in the country with the advent of an Aquino administration.

Ocampo said the militant bloc's "tactical alliance" with the Nacionalista Party (NP) of Jose Emmanuel Villar was only for the May 10 elections.

"We have no illusions. It's either GMA or — It's hard if the joint the opposition. We can't have an alliance with her," Ocampo said.

He said Gabriela Lisa Maza ran her first as party-list candidates of the NP which fielded Villar as its standard bearer.

"We are also talking with other groups but we can't have an alliance with anyone identified with GMA," he added.

After the steps down as President on June 30 after nine years in office, Ms Arroyo will become a representative of Pampanga, her home province.

Extrajudicial killings

Ocampo's bloc of party-list groups is blaming Ms Arroyo for the extrajudicial killings of activists and journalists under her administration. The President, on the other hand, accused militant groups of the bloc having part of an insurgent to oust her in 2006.

Ocampo said Sayan Mora and his allies would not be necessarily be going into an alliance with the LP coalition but would only be voting for Belmonte, the outgoing mayor of Quezon City.

Independent

Ocampo insisted that the militant group would remain independent while staying in the House majority with Belmonte as Speaker.

The militant groups have cast feelers to Belmonte about their preferred committee assignments, Ocampo said.

He said there were also exploratory calls with Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman of Lakas-Kampi-CMD and Iloilo Rep. Ferjenel Biron of the NP both of whom are supposedly interested in the speakership.

But so far, according to Ocampo, it is Belmonte's candidacy that is gathering steam.

Comfortable

"Our progressive party-list bloc feels comfortable with Representative-elect Sonny Belmonte because he has supported Sayan Mora since 2001 and other party-list groups since 2006," Ocampo said.

He urged Belmonte "to draw up a legislative agenda independent of the Palace administration, but in which we hope to contribute proposals."

Ocampo said the situation would be similar to what happened in 2008 when the militant bloc voted for then Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., got committee chairmanships, but "did not join" his so-called Rainbow Coalition.

Impeachment attempts

Ocampo said the militant party-list representatives were united from the majority rulers during the failed impeachment attempts against Ms Arroyo.

"We hope that will not happen this time ... But it not exactly an alliance. We're voting for the Speaker. That would define whether you're part of the majority or the minority but not necessarily part of the administration," he said.

Hacienda Luisita

Ocampo said that even if the militant bloc became part of a Belmonte-led House majority, Sayan Mora and its allies would still press President Benigno Aquino III to resolve the issue of Hacienda Luisita, the Tarlac-based family's huge sugar estate in Central Luzon.

Ocampo's bloc was the most vocal in criticizing Aquino during the campaign for his family's failure to distribute the land to farmers.

"That remains an issue. [Aquino] promised during the campaign that he would seek to resolve it and distribute the land but he turned out three-time opposition from his family," Ocampo said.

Abstrom

Ocampo said that before the militant groups land an alliance with the NP, they talked to Aquino's subscriber about him to resolve the issue early on than it would not be an albatross hanging on his neck.

"But the issue is also pending in the Supreme Court," he said.

Ocampo smiled and declined to comment when asked about the chum of communist leader Jose Maria Sison that Aquino's sister Pinky, Ms Arroyo and representatives of the US Central Intelligence Agency met and agreed to rig the last elections.

He said the country should just wait for Aquino, who has promised to go after Ms Arroyo for graft and other grave crimes, to take the helm of power before making judgments or entertaining bets.

"We will wait for [Aquino] to officially take over and make his officials acts and we will respond at the case may be," he said.

While he and Mora failed to make it to the Senate, Ocampo said their team of their political allies in the local levels.

Ocampo, a former journalist, also said he might decide to remain to "retiring" after his loss to the senatorial elections.

Sayan Mora's nominees in the new Congress are Teddy Casiño and Neri Colmenares.

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OPEN LETTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BENIGNO SIMEON "NOYNOY" C. AQUINO III

We, the undersigned stakeholders of the private emission industry, strongly denounce **Stradcom**'s direct connect facility. It is wreaking havoc on the gains we have made towards the eradication of non-appearance testing and non-testing of vehicles.

Since August 2009 we have embarked on a self-policing program, through our association – the Coalition of Clean Air Advocates (CCAA), to put order and discipline among our ranks. Since then we have made significant headway in delivering, if not totally stopping, non-appearance testing pursuant to the dictates of the Clean Air Act.

Now, all these achievements are being rendered worthless because LTO allowed Stradcom to conduct its direct connect facility, the same does not prevent non-appearance and/or non-testing of vehicles. LTO's allowance of Stradcom is by mere memorandum order which loopholes can be found in its Build-Operate-Own Agreement with the DOTC.

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Records show that an overwhelming number of Private Emission Testing Centers that were meted disciplinary action by our program have connected to **Stradcom** where they continue their activities with impunity.

We therefore implore upon President Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" C. Aquino III to look into this matter in order to be able to put an end to this activity.

Respectfully,

Please check our website for complete list of PETCs – **http://ccaa.webs.com**

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 15, 2010
11th Tuesday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Kgs 21:17-29
Gospel: Mt 5:43-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and do not despise your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

"If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even the tax collectors do so much? And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? Be sure you shall be righteous and perfect, in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect."

Commentary:

Why should God reward you if you love only those who love you?

Our God is the God of all.

His love does, however, differ.

Now, then, can it possibly be otherwise for us God-fearers but to behold that same God?

Due to the considerable gap of holiness to keep those who do not love as

Villar has numbers in Senate–Miriam

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE NEXT CONGRESS IS SET TO OPEN late next month but already senators are being courted and their commitment sought by those eyeing the Senate presidency.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday said she had signed a draft resolution in support of Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.'s bid to be the next Senate president, adding that it looked like Villar had the shoulder leadership in the bag.

Aside from Villar of the Nacionalista Party, others eyeing the Senate leadership are Sen. Francis Escudero and incoming Sen. Franklin Drilon, both of the Liberal Party.

The Liberal Party has yet to decide who between Drilon and Pangilinan it would put up for the Senate leadership.

Sen. Edgardo Angara had earlier said his seven-member bloc would decide the presidency of the chamber.

Angara counted among its members the "Magnificent 5" which includes himself, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, Loren Legarda, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Lito Lapid, as well as Senator Bong-Bong Marcos and Gregorio Honasan.

Whatever votes are needed to elect the Senate president,

Interviewed by reporters, Santiago scuffled at statements by other senators that their respective blocs had the numbers to win the chamber presidency.

"If everybody has the numbers, how can that be possible since there are only 23 senators, in fact less than 23 I think. So it must be obvious to everybody that all the sides are trying to wage a propaganda battle. I don't think that's how the presidency of the Senate should be decided," she said.

Santiago, who was on a power consultation in the Nacionalista Party headed by Villar, said she had a "suspicion" that Villar "already has the votes" but that he "just doesn't go around boasting about it."

She said that when she signed the pro-Villar resolution some time ago, she saw the names of five senators on it, including some who had said they were supporting other candidates for Senate president.

She said that aside from Villar's camp, another group had approached her to support their candidacy.

She said she felt a "little flattered" because in the past "nobody ever approached me I think because of the widespread perception that I'm very difficult to talk to."

Santiago stressed she had made up her mind to support Villar.

"I viewed my role with a person at the helm of the affairs and just turn my back on him. In the first place, I would not have run with him if I did not subscribe to his political philosophy and to his ideology and, of course, I'm willing to assist to his chances," she said.

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LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING Parents rush to the Divisoria market in Manila to do their last-minute shopping for school supplies a day before the official start of classes. LEO SOLIS

Sex education now a reality in Philippine schools

From page A1

the teaching modules that the Church finds offensive.

Economists have blamed sweeping poverty in the nation of over 90 million on a high population growth rate, placed annually at more than 2 percent. A third of the population earns a dollar a day, the poverty threshold defined by the World Bank. (See related story on Page A10.)

"If Grade 6 reading about the reproductive system is prep-flawed," said Deped Assistant Secretary Teresita Inciong. "They have models showing the flow of the sperm cell. Capitalismo is not there [but] the flow of the egg cell entering [the sperm cell] is there."

"We will not be talking about physical sexual activity but the reality of being a person," Inciong added. "I think it is the right of students to ask questions so long as they are about their lessons."

The USP'09, project will be pilot-tested in Grades V and VI classes and in high schools in Olongapo City, Bigaa, Mountain Province, Masbate, Bohol, Eastern Samar, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga del Sur.

For Grade V, sex education will be included in Science and Health lessons on the reproductive system.

For Grade VI, it will be part of Makakayang Damdamin at Angkinhuhuyan and include lessons on the "proper behavior between persons of different gender," personal hygiene and the problems caused by unwanted pregnancy.

All about growing up

Yolanda Quijano, Bureau of Elementary Education director, said Grade V students would learn about their reproductive system and its different parts.

"They will discuss the functions of the main parts. They will also talk about growing-up [pagbibinata at pagdadalaga] and its symptoms like menstruation for women," Quijano said.

"The concept that a woman could get pregnant would also be introduced on how should they take care of themselves when they are with their peers so that nothing bad happens to them," she said.

"You really have to see English words because this is about science and health. There is no malice involved," Quijano added.

Inciong said that the Church might have been alarmed because it got hold of a reading module where children were saying, "I may be grown ups who did not go to schools. I think. Oh is a misconception," she said.

Unwanted pregnancies

"We did not do this so that there would be more unwanted pregnancies. We want our students to be more aware and to be prepared for real life," she added.

Secondary Education Director Lolita Andrada said sex education should be taught in schools to avoid "risky sexual behavior" among students.

"This is a right of parents [but] we believe that it is also the responsibility of the school. Studies have shown that those not taught to school have a bigger chance of engaging in risky sexual behavior," Andrada said.

Inciong said that after the pilot-testing this year, the DepEd would review the project before implementing it nationwide.

13.62M students

According to Education Secretary Mona Valisno, an estimated 23.93 million students were expected to private and public schools for the opening of classes.

Around $0.17 million of them—13.44 million in elementary and 3.46 million in high school—would go to the country's public school system, which has 438,000 classrooms and 561,158 teachers, Valisno said.

"We are 100 percent ready for the school opening. School officials should be reminded not to collect illegal fees and that uniforms are not mandatory," Valisno said.

Former DepEd-National Capital Region Director Teresita Bonifacio said that, generally, schools in the provinces only have one shift per school day.

It is only in highly urbanized areas like Metro Manila that schools have up to three shifts. However, only 11 percent of the 884 public schools in Metro Manila that have three shifts, Bonifacio added.

Question of priorities

Alliance of Concerned Teachers national chair Antonio Tinio said that in spite of the critical shortage of resources in basic education, the Arroyo administration had imposed cuts in this year's DepEd budget.

"The 2010 DepEd budget is lower than last year's. Malacañang imposed a P7.41 billion reduction, from P274.46 billion in 2009 to P172.04 this year. This is the last thing we need during public education system woes," Tinio said in a statement.

He noted that for the incoming school year 2010-2011, there will be a shortage of 54,068 teachers, 4,338 principals, and 6,475 headteachers; 61,540 classrooms, 816,291 seats, and 111,811 toilet and sanitation facilities.

The DepEd will also need an additional P400 million to address the textbook shortage, Tinio added.

Tinio noted that while there was an increase in the budget for salaries and benefits of teachers, this was offset by significant cuts in maintenance expenses and capital outlay for classrooms and equipment.

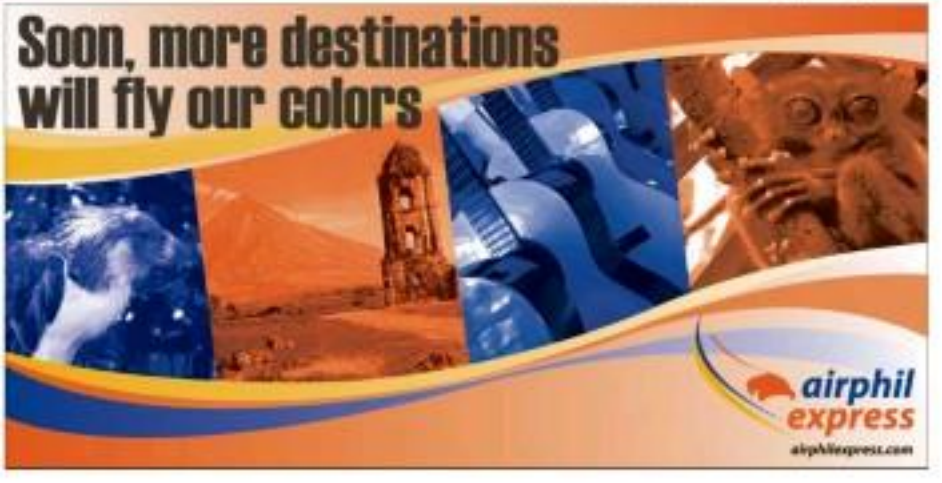
Challenge to Aquino

"The Arroyo administration allocated P3.78 billion less for capital outlay this year. That's equivalent to 6,311 additional classrooms that could have been built. Malacañang also cut P750 million from the daily operations fund of schools," Tinio said.

He said that the appropriation for debt servicing had grown by a staggering 268.1 billion from 2000 to 2010 under the Arroyo administration and had been the main cause of the worsening crisis in education.

Tinio challenged President-elect Benigno Aquino III to take "bold new measures" and reduce debt payments spending.

NEW SHOES A boy tries on a new pair of shoes at a sidewalk store along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City on Monday. MARTIN SILVERIO



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OPINION

Heavy rain

THE RAINY SEASON HAS BEGUN, THE PHILIPPINE Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said last week. While people will welcome cool relief from the long, hot summer, they also feel a lot of trepidation. Many of them fear that with the onset of the rainy season and the occurrence of La Niña, their terrifying experience with the flood spawned by tropical storm "Ondoy" would be repeated.

EDITORIAL

On Sept. 26 last year, nearly a month's worth of rain fell in just six hours over Metro Manila, causing the worst floods in nearly 40 years, rendering families on rooftops and killing 700 people. The floods, in some places quickly rising to two stories high, turned large areas of the metropolis virtually uninhabitable.

Metro Manila, and the greater part of Luzon will have to prepare for the possibility of another "Ondoy" striking the largest island of the country and affecting millions of people.

In the short term, municipal governments will have to dredge rivers, esteros and other waterways. Canals will also have to be cleaned up, and residents will have to be stopped from dumping garbage in esteros.

Every city, town and barangay will have to prepare evacuation plans for people living in flood-prone areas. They will also have to prepare lifeboats, jet skis and other rescue craft and station them in strategic areas. Last year, hundreds of people were rescued from rooftops and chest-deep water by lifeboats and other rescue craft provided mostly by private citizens. This year, we hope that the Coast Guard and the local governments will be better prepared.

Pumping stations will have to be checked to see if they are functioning efficiently. The Department of Public Works and Highways will have to be peddled to complete its road dig-ups and highway projects before the heavy rains come.

As for long-term plans, the government could start, as suggested by Felino Palafox, urban planner and "green" architect, by reviewing and updating the Metro Manila Transport, Land Use and Development Planning Project which was drawn up in 1977 with World Bank aid but never fully implemented.

Palafox has also recommended the amendment of obsolete laws, standards, subdivision rules and building codes. Most them were passed or issued in the '70s or '80s, because of the rapid growth of population, the fast construction of houses and the proliferation of housing subdivisions, these laws and rules are now outdated and have to be reviewed. The opening of housing developments in flood-prone areas will have to be limited. The tragic experience of thousands of people living in subdivisions constructed in flood plains are lessons that should be long remembered.

Palafox also suggested the construction of catch basins under bulldings to collect rainwater for recycling and for conveyance to rivers and other waterways. We find his suggestion very practical and commonsensical. A lot of rainwater is being wasted when it can be stored for use in the dry season. The catch basins will serve two purposes: more water that would otherwise be wasted and at the same time help alleviate the flooding of the metropolis.

A spillway should be constructed in Bustalupa to drain excess water from Laguna de Bay to Manila Bay. The Pasig and Marikina rivers should be dredged and cleaned up to speed up the flow of water.

Urban planners and municipal officials will also have to study what can be done to correct the situation where storm sewers were taken over by buildings and other encroachments. A better, more efficient network of drainage systems will have to be built.

An efficient garbage disposal and collection system will have to be adopted so that residents won't throw their trash into waterways. And harsher penalties should be imposed on those who dump their garbage in esteros.

The weather bureau will have to upgrade its methods and instruments to measure not only wind velocity but the amount of rain. With climate change and La Niña, we should expect a lot of rain to fall during the current rainy season. And a national system will have to be adopted for the release of water from the dams, giving principal consideration to the safety of the people.

These are good plans, practical plans for controlling floods in the metropolis and on the island of Luzon. But they have to be carried out as soon as possible before the heavy rains come and inundate again extensive areas of Metro Manila and Luzon.

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Invisible school absentees

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

OVER 24.4 MILLION KIDS TROOP BACK TO schools today. Or will they be 25 million? And how many won't make it? These stunning discoveries are the more significant issues.

President-elect Benigno Aquino III groused, in his first press conference, about conflicting data or statistical gaps. Small wonder.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last year bore many "midnight appointments" she made—as has Thaksin Shinawatra, of course. Those include Renato Corona, as Supreme Court Chief Justice, and presidential manicurist Anita Cruz as Bag-Ong Pilipinas. "No, thank you, Madame President," Ms Cruzon declined.

Data fiddling isn't limited to deceptive shredding of Project Malacañang "solved" welfare dimensions shortages. How? The paper the President stuffed 50 students into one classroom, instead of the usual 40, 50(!)?

What didn't show shortages on the ground, had "multi-shift" classes, in any case, to the looming capacity drastically. Asian Development Bank reports on "Education Outcomes 2015."

Media coverage of the elections has been undeniably intense. But did we neglect other issues, dramatic but unseen perils?

Take the 2010 Census of Population and Housing. This is the 100th head-count since the 1903 census. About 85,000 enumerators and other enthusiasts have been, says, workshops, suspicious residents, even spooked six months on their rounds.

"Overall, there were fewer complaints in our department of 14, as compared to the 2007 census," a university professor wrote. I responded in a self-administered questionnaire. Only two or three were interviewed. Most of my colleagues—or their color children—were interviewed in their homes.

Congress neglect delayed the last census by seven years. Under reporting marred the 2007 head count. Evidence of padding, incredibly of voting age groups in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and other volatile areas, surfaced. "This time around, we'll see some surprises," predicts Mercedes Concepcion, dean of Filipino demographers.

Children are especially vulnerable in poorer families. Household heads, in these families, tend to be less educated. And that triggers a vicious circle of poverty spanning generations, Alan Berstein, Unicef country head, points.

A faltering educational system is linked to the metastasis of corruption. The Philippines today resembles Turkey in failing to untangle "pork barrel-of-thefts entrenched marginalization" associated with poverty. Hence in the 1990s, does the lawyers, governments spread. "Almost 13 percent of government's annual budget is lost to corruption," ADB estimates. The rip-off widens the gap "separating the poorest 20 percent of Filipinos from the rest of society."

Graft rape funds from, among other places, schools. Whereas spends 8 percent of its GDP for education, World Bank indicators show 9% points (graft is 3.3 percent. That's one of the world's lowest rates.

Inevitably, Filipinos lunged to among the last three nations in International Mathematics and Science Study. 90% dropped INET comparisons. What we don't know won't hurt us?

The Office of the President snagged at 21 percent, in ratings of sincerity, in the last Social Weather Stations survey of "corruption and corruption." That's a month above the House of Representatives (.04 percent). Linked to graft corruption, the Ombudsman ranked -8 percent. The survey didn't look at Dagon.

The Philippines is a "striking example of under-performance" in educational reforms, the UN secretary general notes. "Current policies are failing... in improving education of the poorest Filipinos."

Binay-masked the hopes of many families to educate their children. Most Filipinos are confident that "finance won't have the bucks in our pockets." But none underestimates the threat resistance that embedded graftors will put up. Aquino will need the help of every citizen.

Which rides on the shoulders of the frontdesk elites. The readers are high. "He who listens to me a writing touch, need never beg," the Chinese sages say.

* * *

Email: jmercado@gmail.com

Independence

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WAS SUNDAY AQUINO BEING TO SNUB the Independence Day celebrations last Saturday?

Not at all.

At the very least, why attend a celebration whose purpose is not to celebrate the country's freedom (or spirit thereof) by the late [illegible] but its enslavement over the last nine?

GMA's officials had been announcing it beforehand: Sunday, the Independence Day celebrations would be a testament to her rule, a showcase of her accomplishments during her interminable term. It was obviously going to be a culmination of her cooperative "legacy campaign," a campaign dedicated to showing how much she contributed to the country and how much of course had been/to be spent literally building a monument to himself with a bust in Spain; she would settle for the next best thing, which was tooting an extravaganza for herself.

That "legacy campaign" not quite so identically resulted in fun[illegible] in Manila, not least the ones in Commonwealth Avenue which some every half kilometer or so, carrying the signs, "Inhaltol ng Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa kanilang pag-na-na." A thing that annoyed me only in that it did not start with visitor protests, prompting us to did that it was not we knew that put up those things but our taxing the goodness out of Gloria's heart. Indeed, proposing as it did that she was actually the president, through to cause you to experience road rage, I cannot thought that those signs have been disappearing of late. Either government officials have had a moment of enlightenment and realized their message was unwelcome or the hallowing season has officially begun.

Starting the night with GMA's shrill all-so-independence Day would have sent a far more unwelcome message. Since Sonsey won the elections, 1898 has been at pains to be seen harmonizing with him, or even mentioning him, inviting him at one point to attend Cabinet meetings in Malacañang in order to "re-enact[illegible] of power. Noynoy has rightly declined, the point being that this country does not need continuity with GMA, it needs a rupture from it. You are a decent person, why would you want to continue lying, cheating, stealing and murdering? You are a duly elected president, why would you want to take advice from a duly undocked one?

Independence Day was the same. If GMA has contributed anything to the meaning of independence, it is only to show, as Marcos did in his time, that "strike factor to pay war incurs" Any monetary song debit as yet is as much an injustice to your local tyrants as foreign colonizers. Indeed, if she has contributed anything to the meaning of freedom, it is only to burnish by negative example the political proposition that the truth shall set you free. To the last, she had to pursue that negative example. Never mind that the whole spectacle was an offering to the altar of delusion, mind only what she told the diplomatic corps: "I did not seek the presidency [in 2001]. It was thrust upon me. Rather than shirk from this onerous task, I rolled up my sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around." It was as someone else had to talk to Gates in 1984 to halt the bullets on her shoulders and more time.

Noynoy of course is himself diplomatic, as he showed when he met her at the wake of his mother last year, a visitation done like her presidency in 2004 in the dead of night, when the world was sleeping the sleep of the liquidated. But there are limits to nonsense when you are president that way.

In fact GMA's sole accomplishment is to rule for the longest time since Ferdinand Marcos without even having been voted president.

As the very name, why should you attend a celebration whose purpose is to spare the guilty from prosecution?

Rogelio Neveza, deputy presidential spokesperson, signalled the very reason for Noynoy not to go. Noynoy's coming, he said, "would be a sign that this early, the call for a genuine national reconciliation and unity." And on a very momentous occasion, on the birth of our Republic as an independent nation." That will not be a genuine national reconciliation, that will be a genuine betrayal, not unlike the way the Aquinos reconciled with the Marcoses after Americans and not with the struggling Filipinistance not long after the flying of the flag at Luneta. That genuine betrayal will not prolong the life of the Republic any more than the genuine surrender by the thunder of the

Aquino and Binay should sit down and talk

HOW DOES ONE HANDLE A PROBLEM LIKE his President-elect Jejomar Binay? As he will become the first President-elect Noynoy Aquino had offered him the post of transportation and communications secretary (offered by Aquino). But he's not eager to get that job, stressing repeatedly that he'd like Department of Interior and Local Government instead. And he talks openly about it when the incoming president flying is for the two of them, old friends from Hacienda Luisita days, still chummy.

Aquino apparently doesn't want to give Binay the DILG—and his transition team has floated the names of several candidates for it. His hesitation is understandable: Binay knows how to wield power, and effectively, if needed. In the hands, the DILG, which supervises the national police, can be not just a vehicle for higher ambitions but also a super-powerful weapon—like say he intends to hold coffee in his old Hacienda Luisita days. Binay has fought off a DILG suspension arising from corruption cases years back by making it out to City Hall until much more came in. The corruption cases remain filed in the courts and as political pundits note, how Secretary Binay will be able to "clear" his name before his term ends in 2016 is the big question. But he has, given that Binay had abandoned his presidential...Joseph Estrada, and went all out for Noynoy a month before the election.

* * *

Some weeks ago, in the radio program Cedie Divers and I on first every Sunday morning, Akbayan Representative and candidate for speaker Edcel Lagman uttered that there is wisdom in Binay's voting by the—substitute for a presidential and vice-president, as this presumes harmony between them through their term. Nothing could be truer, for the history of democratic between the first and second highest officials has been long and tortuous. Binay may perhaps be right in saying that not even several Charter amendment, but a simple resolution by Congress.

Incidentally, Lagman and Akbayan Rep. Rodolfo Del Rosario are saying for the speakership, though, of course, there's the reality that, as is habit, in the House, with its dependence on Malacañang for pet/cherished projects, only one vote matters—that of the President. Lagman says, however, that neither of them has the numbers and they've both

among other blocs. But whether he wins or loses, it's a win-win for Lagman...if he loses he ends up as minority leader, under a true-sharing with Quezon's Rep. Sonny Suarez.

* * *

Sen. Agaliño Pimentel winds up a long and distinguished career in the Senate and he said he didn't see his valedictory before a jampacked chamber minutes before the proclamation of the [illegible] last week. He devoted a large part of his speech to denouncing the fraudulent automated elections, even as he was careful to stress that the controversy couldn't be affected by House Speech. Pimentel called for an investigation of the frauds, and here he has had more than doubting experiences, for he had installed—from his own appointees' controller and education personnel—to complain that he received a total of 40 votes instead him as a VP candidate in 1992. I was actually happy taken by Red Dion cases, which I covered simultaneously, as I have always felt that our PR spouse should not regard fraudulent elections a way of life. Pimentel complained that the Comelec had purposely fissured abandoned his cases when he chose to run again, this time for senator, unlike his son-in-law, who chose not to run in order to oppose his protest case against [illegible].

* * *

More and more voices are joining in the outcry against a fraud and the Inbel are ill aspects from the Philippine Computer Society, who said there are grounds "to doubt the accuracy and integrity of [the election results]," adding that "We don't know whether [the vote count] accurately reflected voters' [illegible]." The experts have denounced Comelec and Smartmatic-TIM for not following technical requirements, including security features required by the Automation Law and bidding regulations, and we ought to hand [illegible] experts for declaring [illegible] practices and coming out in the open against them.

Sen. Edgardo Angara has proposed the creation of an independent commission to investigate allegations of corruption against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, in order to separate the grain from the chaff—but that's just as unnecessary—and perhaps of larger lasting value to the nation—is an independent commission to dig deep into the schools in the recent elections which the Comelec and its citizen arm, the PPCRV, won't do for obvious reasons. I think congressman Raul Daza, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, despite his ecumenical guise, would make an excellent commission chair provided he's given a full chunk of authority.

* * *

There's an excellent little book available in bookstores that's quite appropriate as the inauguration of Aquino and Binay nears. "So Help Us God" features inaugural speeches of all our 14 presidents, [illegible] Quezon to Arroyo (I left out Aguinaldo's) and their respective inaugural addresses. In the address, J. Eduardo Malaya, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs and concurrently head of its legal affairs, and his brother Jonathan Malaya have written speeches for special projects at the Department of Education, just 8, the book is "three elements rolled into one—economy, public policy and history."

Just 8 books the historical speeches which are great to revisit for the fullest of the delivery speech is [illegible], the book is full of substantive texts, e.g., the famous plantation for presidents. Among them were Mariano Ipadeio and Dean Jorge Bocobo. President Manuel Quezon's [illegible], somewhat he could ask to go see his speeches as "nuevece de noche," Leon Ma. Guerrero and Raul Manglapus (for Magsaysay's "Barrio" address) "five wordsmiths," including Carlos Quirino ("Arroyo"), Salvador Araneta (for [illegible]), Quirino (Quirino's speech) and Ramon Magsaysay (for [illegible]), another source of PMS writers in the early 1960s were headed by chief Ministry Abello, Jr. The book noted, though, that most presidents took a direct hand including their own speeches and personally wrote their inaugural addresses.

Move

HE LEFT, QUIETLY AND WITHOUT MUCH FANFARE, A few days before our graduation. Best candy couldn't wait. The Philippine Military Academy couldn't wait. The other, prayed for, much-cherished dream couldn't wait. Not even for a proper goodbye.

I was riding a jeepney on my way home when I received the news. I cried unabashedly. Already, our chiefs had graduating from the academy was breaking up before we had even wiped off the last specks of our dearest dear from our trenched shoes and Forms, before the will on our grading sheets had dried, before we had even finished our input for size. I didn't know what appalled me more—that he left without a suitable adieu or that he electronically and insolently pressed a period on our friendship.

His decision to be in the military was something he kept alive by talking all those years we were in college. His narratives were always punctuated by animation, oftentimes with regret, sometimes with the disappointed sighs of youth. It was a dream that, unfortunately, his mother did not share. He was bundled off and sent to a distant city before said mother could wake up the fashionable cuisine of morning.

In that same distant town I have lived all my life, and parental interests were not so different at all. It seems to be the collective dream of the parents of my generation to have at least one nurse in the family, so we were all to find out with much chagrin during our first few days of classes, our teary put into the same predicament by parental pressure and our lack of option. We had dreams that we had to sink to accommodate the fallen American dream. Yet often, I would look up from my anatomy and physiology notebook, see the identical white clad backs of my classmates and feel the regret, tugging ever that this is not where we were meant to be. In the easily colored world in my mind, fingers were colored bacilius, brains bled to green and I was a writer, an artist, a photographer, a dancer, a journalist.

Yet this is what life hands down to us: and if life gives us lemons, I am going to find some salt and a good bottle of tequila. Happiness, I deduced, is a state of mind, a conscious effort to be content with the circumstances. I told myself that I can choose to be happy when I am pissed.

This doesn't in practice, of course. It happens—inside me steel to the very thing I disliked. I graduated a the top of my class and found a niche somewhere among the top 10 of the Nursing Licensure Exam.

At the time, he used his good head to get significantly good grades in class. But he spent most of his time sleeping and dreaming of where he ought to be. One day, I asked him why he wouldn't jump ship and just accept nursing and do something with his life. He just smiled frustratingly.

Now, he is exactly where he might to be, I sense the disappointment of much, replaced by the confidence and conviction of a man who knew what he wanted and was getting it, by God. As for me, I am working as a critical care nurse in one of the best hospitals in Asia. Yet now, I find myself spending more of my time weeping and drowning of the overwhelmed, often ignored accomplishments.

I used to swear him for going off to PMA, for not taking time to touch during our graduation and take the board exams like the rest of us. In retrospect, I believe that it was not resentment but envy that I felt. I am envious that he knew what he wanted and that he had the courage to grab his dreams with both hands, while the rest of us dawdled.

Sometimes I think, he may have gotten it right all along. If I am not happy, I should move. Mind games can only sustain me for so long.

Anna Mae M. Trinidad, 22, is a Neuro-Critical Intensive Care Unit nurse at St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City.

YOUNG BLOOD

Anna Mae M. Trinidad

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? The welcome contributions from the [illegible] are listed below.—Ed.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

'Voting with our gonads'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—"VOTING WITH OUR GONADS" is the phrase Harvard University historian Cabral attributed her presentation at a workshop at the event "Human Deliver" cautious here.

Tracking "the quest for a national reproductive health policy," Cabral opened her talk by tracing the origins of the words "virility" "testimony" and even "testosterone" to words denoting that men were more by the veracity of their statements with their manhood. And in now a decade struggling with the issue of reproductive health and public and setting into policy centering it in terms that highlighted and policy changes, she noted that to "get it real," public opinion and personal perception rather than on scientific evidence and scientific proof.

Speaking before Secretary Cabral was Dr. Janice Medina of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) on "Challenges in Contraceptive and Abortion Rates" in the country. Reproductive health policy opponents often bridge called the "golden age" of reproductive health policy in the [1968 when the PRRM, now celebrating] 1990's [illegible] contraceptive prevalence rate of [illegible] the health of women and girls.

But that progress, said Medina, has been reversed. In recent years, [illegible] in one institutionally the year ongoing President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency.

The Philippine presentation made for a compelling case for finally facing the reality of our situation.

Hostile politics against most modern methods and a futile insistence on promoting and funding only natural family planning methods have resulted in a tragedy of the country's unnecessary [illegible] rate to the present 31 percent for modern methods. This in turn, said Medina, has resulted in an increased unmet need, a term that refers to women who want to delay their next pregnancy or stop having children but are not able to do so because they have no access to contraceptives.

* * *

THE 31/100 decline in fertility rates, the growing "unmet need" among Filipino women and the large number of unintended or unplanned pregnancies have also resulted in the slow decline of maternal mortality rates.

At present rates, Cabral pointed out, the Philippines will not be able to meet Millennium Development Goal No. 5, which calls for the reduction of MMR from the 2000-2001 of 162 deaths per 100,000 to the 2015 target of 52. Instead, if nothing at all is done to address the deaths of women due to pregnancy, we should be looking at figures of an MMR of 240, among the highest in the region. (Among our neighbors, only Cambodia and East Timor have higher MMRs.)

Apart from supporting the passage of a Responsible Parenthood Bill, Cabral left us to ponder what she says is her remaining days as the DOH. For one, she has issued AO 2010-0014, which allows midwives to administer life-saving drugs during obstetric emergencies. Considering that a large number of births in the Philippines still takes place at home, midwives need to be better equipped to better high blood pressure and prevent excessive bleeding, the most common causes of maternal deaths.

The third most common cause, by the way, is abortion and bleeding as a result of an unsafe abortion. That is an issue we would rather, it seems, turn our eyes away from, believing that if we ignore it, it will go away. Yet it is estimated to be the 1,000 women who annually die from post-abortion complications as well as the 90,000 who need to be brought to hospital. Instead of finding relief and succor, these patients are, she claimed, treated are met with "shaming, scrapping [by abortion providers] and threatening treatment."

* * *

THERE was a fairly large delegation of Filipinos at the "Women Deliver" conference. Aside from Cabral, who took part in a separate "Women

Conference," there were two legislators, both co-authors of the RH Bill in the last Congress: Representative Edcel C. Lagman and Senator Pia Cayetano (a May's elections) and party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño who were part of the "Media International Conference."

Also spotted at the huge, sprawling Washington Convention Center were MMA leaders like Rep. Dr. Joco of The Forum for Family Planning and Edsa Entrenagara of the Philippine Health Council. There were also prominent representatives from the Philippine Legislators' Forum for Reproductive Health (or, ARMMS) secretary of health.

Inside from my business colleague Mike Tan, another Filipino media person at the conference was Ate Gamboa who writes a columnbadge column for the Manila Times to millions blog on assembly issues.

On the second day of "Women Deliver," the Filipino group was treated to lunch at a Chinese restaurant by Ambassador Willy Gaa, where the conversation ranged from politics to business and sociological analyses. Many thanks to the Gaa couple and embassy staff not just for the delicious lunch but also for their kind assistance.

* * *

AT THIS point, I would like to acknowledge the Population Reference Bureau, which sponsored my participation in "Women Deliver." I was part of a group of 30 media journalists from countries like Guatemala, Georgia, Uganda, Peru, Nigeria, Senegal, Kenya, India, Liberia, Pakistan and of course the Philippines.

The day after the conference ended, our group was treated to lunch with PRB staff and conducted debriefing on our experiences, and our impressions of "Women Deliver." The judgments of those who had been to the first conference held in London in 2007, was that, while there were many "disappointments," participation this time, it was also quite disheartening to realize that little progress has been made in the years since.

But interesting there was our discussion on "how the media can be more gender-responsible," and the sharing of experiences from our varied perspectives was stimulating, indeed.

Renato Constantino's false choices

THE CLASSIC CRITIQUE OF AGUAL NOSSE 140th birthday we mark on Saturday has itself become somewhat. Senator Constantino's "Neocolonial without Understanding" was the unending Rizal Day classic of 1995, once we were young. In my view, it does not lose as well to any of Rizal's key writings. But it continues to be a point for read, and to sometimes used to proselytize, or even stir up, emotion. Everybody that a progressive nationalist ought to know about Rizal, I can remember a friend saying, is in Constantino.

What, exactly did Constantino say in the courageous, unheard-clearing lecture that perhaps [illegible] his suppression history? He says Filipinos who hold Rizal up as the ideal hero do not understand that he was, in truth, a counter-revolutionary—and therefore insufficiently nationalistic. He had repudiated the one and only really enthusiast was nationalist aspirations, and yet we consider him a nationalist leader. That "we are" to the revolution of 1896.

In rereading Constantino's "Orientation" yet again, however, I found myself struck by the paradigm of false choices he presents to the reader (in the shell-shocked member of his original audience). His critique is based, not only on a literate reading of history and nationalism (for instance, the [illegible] Emilio Aguinaldo that a progressive nationalist ought to know about Rizal, I can remember a friend saying, it in Constantino.

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Let Noy break tradition, but he must guard against deceit

LETTERS

I WISH TO RESPOND, POINT BY POINT, TO the issues raised by Lourdes Ibiso Parba in her letter titled "Thanking the horde of hatemail," (Inquirer, 6/12/10).

First, Hayney Aquino is admirably not an experienced or traditional politician are. Experience may be a sound qualification in a normal election, but not in one that had Edsa workers all over it.

Second, is Parba under the impression that by invoking the memory of his parents, Hayney was trying to be like them? I do not share this view. What I saw was an attempt to rationalize what was an obvious in August 2009, as a nation, we have not yet succumbed to mediocrity or hopelessness.

Third, if by "breaking tradition" Parba means going against deceit...then by all means let the whole country break tradition.

Fourth, if Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is one more pressing problem. Period.

Sixth and last... "magnanimity in victory" is exactly what the country has now. It's when every Filipino—voting Villar to Jun and resources, including Hayney.

The danger we are now most outward vain is less for bright plain words of mistrust, it is that he might stop the brain of deceit.

—CLARO V. MELGAR III.

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DOH hands are tied

"THIS IS IN REACTION TO A LETTER WRITTEN by Turk Ty ("Instead of giving advice, DOH should ban tobacco," Inquirer, 5/1/10)

We believe that he is on the same side as the Department of Health and other tobacco control advocates to discourage tobacco use. However, allow me to clarify a few points that he raised.

He apparently wants local bans on all tobacco products, and seems to regard anything less than as "futile." Made as some what as restricted measures are of the same line of thinking, they also know that the chances of doing that are virtually nil. If not as simple as he suggests, he missed a basic point: the DOH has no power to do what he wants us to do. He suggested it could subscribe tobacco would require laws that must be passed by Congress and whose constitutionality must be upheld by our courts. Until that time comes, enabling and the manufacturer of tobacco remain within the sphere of personal and economic rights of citizens. The less we can do is to aggressively push for educating the public as to the harmful effects of smoking by providing graphic health information of cigarette packets for example, along with other means of controlling tobacco consumption such as the raising of taxes on tobacco products.

Further, let's calm for the shutdown and purging of the DOH are unintentional. We would like to inform him, and the public as well, of the present DOH administration's commitment to sustaining the harmful effects of tobacco consumption in the country. Even with the imposition of the multibillion-peso tobacco industry, we issued an administrative order that will require all cigarette advertisements, put picture-based warnings on their products' packaging, or those have been proven effective in substantially reducing tobacco consumption in other countries.

We feel that Ty's efforts will be put to better use by supporting the DOH and our administration efforts, as well as the passage of long pending bills in Congress that will impose stricter regulatory mechanisms for the tobacco industry.

—DR. ESPERANZA I. CABRAL,
secretary, Department of Health

Palace tells Noynoy: You're President of your foes, too

By Christian V. Esguerra

YOU ARE THE PRESIDENT even of your enemies.

Malacañang yesterday gave incoming President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III a chance to remind him of his campaign promise against discriminating against his political opponents during his six years in office.

"When you become the President, you become the President of the entire nation—not just of your friends, relatives or supporters," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, told reporters in Filipino.

"He will aim to be the president of his enemies, of his critics, and I think...this is a first test of the supreme administration-to-be [as] [illegible]

'Unsolicited advice'

Bunye gave the incoming Chief Executive the picture of unsolicited advice to the wake of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Delfin Bangit's decision to retire early, apparently to spare himself from embarrassment.

With still a year to go before Bangit reaches his mandatory retirement age of 56, Aquino had announced that he would replace the military official at her in his list with at the country's 15th President on June 30.

In case he would not retire early, Bangit could either be moved to a lower position or sent to the military's holding office, a euphemism for "freeze" that officers with no clear assignment. Either way, such a move would be naturally humiliating for an incumbent chief of staff.

Bunye said Bangit had every reason to feel bad about his impending relief.

"It's like you were suddenly replaced by your boss and your replacement has been announced without you knowing it," he said. "I think no person will be hurt. You're only human even if you're a general."

'Reconstructive justice'

Bunye advised the new President to be "consultative" and to focus on "reconstructive justice" that would require both "justice and healing."

"Every leader has his own style, but perhaps, it would help if he would go on a consultative mode because we want a unified country," she said. "We don't want additional division in a country where we really have to move together and not separately."

Bangit's promotion to four-star general was bypassed by the Commission on Appointments, along with that of at least 300 other military officers. The AFP has denied that the bypass demoralized the military.

But Ilaw said: Vice military deserved the respect from all of us because if not for [illegible] us, we would not have reached this current state. During the Japan occupation [illegible] the Filipinos demonstrated the military's

(From page A1)

ment began as National Capital Region commander.

The same is among 300 items on the agenda of the high tribunal at the resumption of its session following a break in early May, according to court spokesperson Midas Marquez.

Chief Justice Renato Corona, whose own appointment on May 17 has been questioned because it fell within the three-month ban, would preside for the first time over the court's first full session.

Mr. Arroyo appointed Bangit to the highest military post on March 9, a day before the constitutional ban on appointments took effect.

Bangit, a senior aide de camp of then Vice President Arroyo, was chief of the Presidential Security Group during Corazon Aquino's presidency.

Subsequently appointed chief of the AFP Intelligence Service, Bangit was earlier believed to [illegible]

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo gestures during Saturday's Independence Day celebrations at Quirino Grandstand. AP/File

bills amid chants of "Long live the Emperor"

Retirement dilemma

Aquino has announced that he would join his cousin at the helm of the 120,000-strong military organization, saying short Bangit's term, when he assumes the presidency on June 30.

On Friday, Bangit told reporters that he was seriously considering retiring early and that he would make an announcement soon.

"Definitely he will be retiring from the service early but as far as the exact date is concerned, we still have no formal information," Bunye said.

The 54-year old chief of staff has a year and a month to serve in the AFP before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56. He is turning 55 next month.

"He will start making farewell visits to camps in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao," Bunye said. "He will make sure that he would be able to [cover] all the units of the AFP."

Traditional parades by the Army, Navy and AFP will be scheduled after Bangit shall have announced the date of his retirement.

But aside from laying the groundwork for his early retirement, the outgoing chief of staff was also preparing and coming up with a "good" briefing for Aquino on the state and missions of the AFP, Bunye said.

Should Bangit retire before June 30, the acting chief of staff will represent the military during Aquino's inauguration, Bunye said. "So, there's just a problem." With a report from Jaime Z. Pintolopez

Bangit set to retire early

(From page A1)

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PNP chief to give GMA 'exit briefing'

(From page A1)

could be his last act as civilian leader of the 120,000-strong PNP.

The event will be the first public meeting between Mr. Arroyo and Verzosa since he announced in mid-January that May 10 polls that he would not support any attempts to install her as holdover president should there be a failure of elections.

The PNP chief made the remark in an interview on March 6, a few days later Mr. Arroyo skipped the graduation rites of the PNP Academy and later failed to mention Verzosa in her speech at the anniversary rites of the Philippine Army, fanning speculations that he assistance did not sit well with her.

Unlike the retired bosses, the PNP is not preparing a ceremonial parade for the boss to Camp Crame, according to PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina.

Special session

"It's more of a special session and exit briefing for the President," Espina told reporters yesterday.

Instead of a traditional review, the PNP honor guard will give "arrival and departure honors" for the outgoing President, Espina said.

Asked if the PNP would hold another farewell ceremony for Mr. Arroyo, Espina said: "I still have to check on it. But I think it's only the military which renders a ceremonial parade for the outgoing Commander-in-Chief."

In another media advisory, the PNP described Mr. Arroyo's visit to Camp Crame as a "post-election command conference."

Aside from senior PNP officials based at the national headquarters, Espina said, all regional police commanders and chiefs of national support units were invited to attend the meeting.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno will join Verzosa in welcoming Mr. Arroyo, he added.

Briefing agenda

Espina said Mr. Arroyo would preside over the discussion on the PNP's peace-keeping operations during the last election period, its disaster preparedness program, and the current peace and order situation nationwide.

Police commanders would also give a briefing on today's resumption of classes.

Shortly after Congress proclaimed him winner of the May polls last week, President-elect Benigno Aquino III expressed an intention to retain Verzosa as PNP chief, but declined he would not keep him. Still in Bangit as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The AFP yesterday announced that Bangit—who still has a year left in military service before reaching the mandatory retirement age—had decided to go for an early retirement and had started his farewell rounds in the military. (See related story on Page A1.)

Yet on Monday last week, a hosting Bangit, 54, called for a press conference to say he had changed his mind about going into retirement and blamed "politics" for the failure of Congress to confirm his appointment and the promotion of some 300 other officers.

Sex ed tips: Stick to anatomy, don't say bird or flower

By Tara Quimosing

DON'T SAY BIRD OR FLOWER!

Straightforward language and an emphasis on reproductive organs is the formula educators use to keep its teaching objectives on target without provoking undue and undue reaction, said Bernadeth Deliquiño, a public school health educator since 1996.

She has found that using the exact terms instead of clouding sensitive words in euphemisms worked in bringing the message (a her Grade 5 students.

While not aiming the teachers who will pilot the Department of Education's new sex education modules this school year, Deliquiño has long been teaching the reproductive system to 11 year-olds in her science class at Fort. T. De Leon Elementary School in Valenzuela City. (See related story on Page A1.)

"I use the exact terms. I don't say bird or flower for example," said Deliquiño, a member of the Teachers' Dignity Coalition. "The approach is anatomical."

Teaching students in the critical puberty stage, where curiosity about sex begins, requires a delicate approach, said Deliquiño in an interview yesterday.

"You have to cut their minds about the lesson and explain how sex will study if for them to take it as a objective. We're not teaching the [sexual] act but we teach the reproductive system as we do the other body parts," she said.

There will always be naughty students, but the class settles down once they get that the classroom is scientific, Deliquiño said.

"One time a student asked why they said: do it yet when they are already capable at their age. I told him that only couples can do that and that we have to be careful. Those are the times we include values in our teaching," she said.

Manila Water

NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS

Effective July 1, 2010, water rates for Manila Water customers will be adjusted due to the appreciation of Peso against other currencies during the second quarter of 2010. The Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) component of the water bill will be adjusted from P0.27 to P0.00 per cubic meter, a decrease of P0.27 per cubic meter. This represents a -0.51% downward adjustment from 1.26% of the basic charge of the previous quarter.

REGULATORY APPROVAL

The adjustment in FCDA was approved by the METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS) thru Board Resolution No. 2010-084 dated June 08, 2010, confirming MWSS Regulatory Office Resolution No. 10-003-CA dated June 07, 2010.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism that was formulated to account for foreign exchange losses or gains arising from the payment of Manila Water of foreign currency-denominated concession fees to the MWSS as well as loans for its service expansion and improvement.

SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

As part of Manila Water's advocacy and in support to the government's program in protecting the environment, projects are now being implemented and geared toward the further enhancement of wastewater coverage and provision of sanitation services. Manila Water is embarking on the clean up of the three river systems, namely: San Juan, Marikina and Pasig.

Manila Water has also been very supportive of the MWSS roadmap to explore potential new water sources as well as programs that would further strengthen the company's ability to mitigate impacts of environmental disasters.

Continuing rehabilitation programs are undertaken to further enhance service levels in areas with 24/7 water supply which include Mandaluyong, Pasig, San Juan, Marikina, Pateros, Makati, southeastern part of Quezon City, and San Andres and Sta. Ana in Manila. With 100% coverage in these areas, aggressive service expansion programs are now under way in Taguig, San Mateo, Rodriguez, Antipolo, Cainta, Taytay, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, and Jalajala in Rizal province.

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Bus rented by Iranians had '666' plate number

From page A1

there was a danger the backhoe might be pulled down, he added.

Pena said it was not clear if the Iranians were out on a medical mission or for an outing at one of several resorts in and around Cebu.

Probe left to police

Poorly maintained vehicles and roads, along with inadequate safety signs, railings, warning and road-traffic law enforcement, are blamed for many deaths in accidents in the Philippines.

Iranian Consul Mohammad Tavana, who arrived in Cebu late Sunday, has accepted that it was an accident, according to Chief Cebu Doctors Hospital acheer a member of the fatalities and the injured were working as medical assistants.

Tavana was hosting the investigation to pacify the families, Larrazabal said.

Larrazabal said the consul's primary concern was to ensure that the injured, 24 of whom were confined at Cebu Doctors Hospital, received proper medical care and that the remains of the fatalities would be brought home to Iran as soon as possible.

Chief Supt. Leni G Neves, the Central Visayas police director, said investigators would attempt to determine the cause of the accident and who should be held liable for it.

The dead included 20 Iranians, including a 20-month-old boy, and their Filipino driver, Jaime Bacoor, who was also the owner of the bus company. (It's Rent a Car Unit Cebu)on its car has reported), that operated the 55-seater bus.

Bus newly acquired

Marcelo Muñez, Bacoor's counsel, who was said business partner, said that the company would compensate the victims as the bus was properly insured and has complete registration papers.

Muñez, who claimed Bacoor's body at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes on Monday, said the bus was the first bus acquired by Bacoor for their rent-a-car business and was bought only last May 24 from Subic Freeport and brought to Cebu two days later.

FRIENDS grieve over the bodies of Iranians who died in Sunday's bus accident in Barangay Canomoway, Balamban, Cebu. AFP PHOTO/NOEL CELIS

She said the bus had a regular driver but he was on another mission and Bacoor decided to drive the bus himself.

It was only the second time that the bus was rented, she said, for P15,000 for a day.

Bacoor's body was the last recovered from the wreckage at about 12 p.m. today. 12 hours after it fell into the ravine while negotiating a sharp downhill curve.

Residency program

The fatalities included ophthalmologists, cardiologists, a pediatrician, a nurse and an international maid. Another ophthalmologist, he said, survived the crash but lost his wife and 9-year-old son.

The Iranians were in the Philippines under a special arrangement for a residency program with the Professional Regulations Commission, Larrazabal said.

Larrazabal said the Iranian professionals were staying in Cebu with their families, which also ran a clinic where some were bringing their children when they went to Balamban supposedly for a tour and a beach camping event.

He said that the hospital had nothing to do with the tours to celebrate Iran's Independence Day. Reports from Shannen Aspillaran and Chitz Aragon, Inquirer Visayas; and AP

Aquino inaugural at Quirino, party in QC

From page A1

of the same year rule of President Maria Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

His transition team has set aside P500,000 for the inaugural party, amount that Aquino left was reasonable but his organizers considered too small.

Professional and amateur entertainers have signed up to lead the party. Singer-comedian Dolphy Quizon will debut an original song for Aquino.

Doing a Mandela

Although he promised to celebrate like South African leader Nelson Mandela who danced with the likings of apartheid, Aquino was leaving mixed thoughts about doing it.

"I was practicing it the other night, and while it looked good when he (Mandela) did it, I don't think I could do it as well," Aquino said.

He will first hold a Thanksgiving Mass with his family in the morning before proceeding to his parent's graves at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

Cabinet meeting

He will then proceed to Quirino Grandstand for the swearing in ceremonies and hold a Cabinet meeting after.

Before going to Quezon Memorial Circle, Aquino will attend a Malacañang ecumenical service with the diplomatic community.

"It's going to be a full day and my instincts tend to have forgotten about lunch breaks in the schedule," he said laughed.

Message of change

Aquino said that his inauguration would "send a clear message of change" to the people.

He promised to give one report on May 30 to say on Congress to Nation Day which would entail sharing a ride in a limousine.

"She is older than me. She is the incumbent. She is my leader, I will afford her all the dignity due her office, the respect due the elders and especially the fact she is a woman. I will do justice to what my parents taught me," he said.

Earlier, an official of the Quezon City government, who thought that the inauguration would be held at the memorial circle, said two stages—one for Aquino and another for special guests—would be set built.

Eulex Pelino, the secretary to Mayor Sebastian Belmonte Jr., said a small grandstand would be set up near the monument to the late President Manuel Quezon.

"The mini grandstand will be for the President-elect's important guests, and of course we will also construct a presidential stage for the Presidential," Pelino said.

Coordination

The Department of Public Works and Highways has coordinated with the Quezon City government for the construction of structures inside the memorial circle, a 37-hectare park.

The Libmod Body held its massive meeting at events the week before the May 10 elections at the park in Quezon City whose outgoing mayor, Belmonte, is a friend of Aquino's late mother, former President Corazon Aquino.

In 2006, the Quezon City government assisted full control of the memorial circle with the signing of an agreement with the QC Parks Development Foundation Inc. designating the city government in charge of the park.

The park was under the care and maintenance of the Foundation from 1998 to July 2009.

"The city government now has the organizational and financial capabilities to directly undertake the further development, actual administration, management and overall maintenance of the park," a 2006 resolution passed by the Quezon City Council read. PDI report from Julie M. Aurelio

US kindergartners taught engineering

From page A1

All 200 students at Class S. Coleman Elementary School are learning the ABC's of engineering this year, even those who cannot yet spell e-n-g-i-n-e-e-r-i-n-g.

The high-performing Glen Burk school district, about 35 kilometers northwest of Manhattan, now teaches 18 to 35 hours of engineering each year in every grade, in kindergarten through fifth grade, as part of a $150,000 redesign of the science curriculum.

Spurred by growing concerns that American students lack the skills to compete in a global economy, school districts nationwide are pushing engineering lessons into already crowded schedules for even the youngest students, giving priority to a subject that was once left to after-school robotics clubs and summer camps, or else waited until college.

Math, Science skills

Supporters say that engineering reinforces Math and Science skills, promotes critical thinking and creativity, and teaches problem-solving skills ahead of looming intellectual jobs.

"We will lose all the time that little kids can't engineer," said Christine Cunningham, director of Engineering is Elementary, a program developed at the Museum of Science in Boston that offers ready-made lessons, for almost $350 each, on 20 topics. The program is now used in all 50 states, in more than 3,000 schools.

"We say they're born engineers—they naturally want to solve problems—and we tend to educate it out of them," Cunningham added.

The Obama administration's Race to the Top competition, which will distribute $4.35 billion in education stimulus money, is among several so-called STEM programs, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Legislation considered

At the same time, Congress is considering legislation, endorsed by more than 100 businesses and organizations like IBM and Lockheed Martin, to promote engineering education from kindergarten through 12th grade.

In Herndon, Virginia, which has a thriving biotech industry the local school district has spent $300,000 on a children's engineering program since 2008, equipping its six elementary schools with tool kits for projects like making musical instruments from odds and ends, building "tadpole rafts" out of spaghetti and matching bar soap balloons made from trash bags and cups.

At Alabury Elementary School of Science and Engineering in Anderson, South Carolina, kindergartners celebrated Groundhog Day by attempting to gather a pulley system to lift a paper groundhog off the floor.

Doubts raised

As these lessons have spread, however, some parents, teachers and engineers question how much children are really absorbing, and if schools should be expanding limited resources on the subject.

Engineering is not a requirement in most states. New Jersey is an exception; the state mandates mandate some exposure to engineering by second grade.

Tara giving kids an engineering problem to solve doesn't mean it will lead to learning," said Jennifer Stanford, an associate education professor at the University of Pennsylvania who is not opposed, but believes that good teaching is essential to making any curriculum work well.

Stanford pointed out that schools had long offered projects-based learning, and that engineering is engineering, like building Lego robots or designing a rubber for an egg drop.

"Ideally, you want them to come away with knowledge that goes beyond that problem," she said.

Otherwise, would just go through the motions and end up with a robot that can do a particular thing, but the next problem they have will be a new problem. This is where good teaching comes in." New York Times News Service

Mangroves bring life to deserted shore in Camarines Sur

From page A1

process which can help shield residents from powerful waves whenever there is a typhoon.

Nursery

Mangroves protect shorelines from the damaging effects of storm surges by breaking the waves and reducing the force of water before they strike the coast.

Mangroves are submerged and tropical species of trees or shrubs adapted to growing in brackish water and seawater.

"In the spawning area of marine life, mangroves serve as the nursery of the sea," said Ibrahim Tamano, chief of the environment, wildlife and coastal zone section of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Naga City.

Survival

Last year, from Aug. 14 to Sept. 4, Smart Communications provided the seedlings, bamboo markers and other materials to achieve its target of planting 176,000 mangrove propagules for its rehabilitation project for Lagonoy's shorelines.

Barangay secretary Arquero Dado, 37, one of those who lost a home in 1998, said "there used to be an inlet here that protected the coast but it was washed out by the waves. So, after the typhoon [Lando], this place was almost turned into a wasteland."

Dado told viewers how nearly the mangrove had become from the time these were planted—a good nine months.

High survival rate

The mangroves showed a healthy survival rate of 80 to 90 percent, said Mon Idones, public affairs and corporate communications head of PLDT, while representatives from Conservation International of the environmental signing of the mangroves rehabilitation project on June 5.

"It can live planting projects in other parts of the country, we mean [up] enough if we could achieve a success rate of 70 to 80 percent," Idones said.

The healthy survival rate also helped Smart achieve a substantial portion of its tree planting target for last year.

As of 2009, the company had helped plant 393,000 trees. Of this number, 43 percent came from Barangay Lagonoy, with the rest coming from its tree planting activities, such as other communities, the DENR and watershed protection.

NURSERY OF THE SEA A tree helps maintain the "balance" plantation that is expected to become a spawning area for marine life.

"Smart's partnership with Lagonoy is a testament to how a private company can work hand in hand with the government and the community to help protect the environment," Tamano said.

Inspiring

Part of the success of the project has something to do with the people's sincerity in making it work, she said.

Cagaoc Barangay Captain Rosenon Ita Ana has a speaking handicap after suffering from three successive strokes but this has not deterred him from making the surrounding areas inspiring.

"Before, we used to cut trees for our livelihood. Now, we are trained to plant mangroves," said Nova Concepcion, the company's officer-in-charge, with Cagaoc's elderly people for the mangrove planting project.

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Project expanded

On Nov. 8, 2009, the barangay council led by Ita Ana passed a resolution ensuring protection of the mangrove seedlings. The council agreed to expand the project by planting additional 50,000 mangrove propagules.

Ita Ana said the collaborative project was the only mangrove rehabilitation project he was involved in that became a success.

Ita Ana noted that 90 percent of the propagules were able to survive and the wrath of Tropical Storms "Dodoy" and "Pepeng" last October and were then sitting along the riverbanks of Cagaoc.

Collaboration

Concepcion attributed the project's success to the strong partnership among the parties involved—the communities, the local government unit headed by Mayor Evelyn Yu and members of the Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR).

CNDR is a network of business groups, associations, organizations and corporate foundations which seek "to reduce and not limit vulnerable disaster management efforts of the business community."

CNDR executive director Hilda Cheah said the public-private partnership in Cagaoc was a "showcase which hopefully would be replicated in other disaster-prone areas."

Breeding ground

Dado told the inquirer that planting mangroves in the area brought the community additional benefits.

"Fish have started breeding in the area, too, although the mangroves are just half a year old. We have seen fingerlings in the area as well as shrimp and crabs. They (marine organisms) are coming back," Dado said.

The revival of marine life in the area has been a big boost to fishermen living in one of the poorest areas of the province.

"The mangroves provide a big help. Their roots provide a breeding ground for fish. They let fingerlings grow well. When the fingerlings grow well, they will swim out to the sea and we will have more to catch," said fisherman Ismael Manao, 45, who was heading home after a day on the sea.

In 1998, the young mangroves, as village folks hope to happen, would reclaim the shore, bring back the life and let the past disaster be a learning experience rather than a painful memory.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Special polls sought in 2 Abra towns

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS is hearing today (June 15) a petition filed by Abra Rep. Cecilia Luna to declare failure of elections in the towns of La Paz and Dangdas due to incidents of intimidation that drove away voters.

Luna, who was the reelection opponent of Maria Josefina "Joy" Bernos, asked the poll body to immediately hold special polls in these towns.

Luna got 46,688 votes in the final tally of the Abra board of canvassers.

Luna said voters, who failed to cast their ballots, contributed to her defeat in La Paz and Dangdas, whose incumbent officials are related to Bernos.

Reelected La Paz Mayor Joseph Bernos is Joy Bernos' brother-in-law while reelected Dangdas Mayor Esther Bernos is her mother-in-law.

Joy Bernos is the daughter of outgoing Bangued Mayor Dominic Valera, who is under house arrest in Metro Manila for his alleged role in an election-related murder.

Valera is under preliminary investigation for the death of an aide of Bangued Mayor-elect Ryan Luna, Representative Luna's son.

"Without the terrorism and fraud, I could have won and come out victorious in the last elections in Abra," Luna said in her petition.

She became tired to reach Bernos on Monday but she did not take calls and answer text messages.

Lawyer Vanessa Rimual, Abra election supervisor, confirmed Luna's petition in a text message relayed by the Philippine Information Agency.

"(Luna's) power asks (Comelec) that after due notice and hearing, special elections must be held in those two towns, but I hope it is clear to everyone that this (petition does not get resolved) automatically," Rimual said.

"Comelec will first render a decision as to whether there was failure of elections for the two towns before it deliberates on whether there is a need for special polls," she said.

Luna said among the violent acts committed in Abra during the May 10 elections were the "strafing of a vehicle [as it passed through] Barangay Canan in La Paz town, [the alleged] abduction and detention of poll watchers under Representative Luna's employ in Dangdas and La Paz, and [the alleged] coercive and harassment of board of election inspectors that prevented them from carrying out their poll duties in the two towns."

Luna cited incidents of intimidation allegedly by a relative of Bernos "who would bodily drag voters [towards] voting precincts and, at gunpoint or upon threat of physical harm, would force the latter to vote for... [Joy] Bernos."

Luna said intimidation and fraud also attended the elections in the towns of Manabo, Bucay and Peñarrubia.

Luna has also contested the election results in all of the 69 clustered precincts—not only in Dangdas and La Paz towns but also in the municipalities of Manabo, Bucay and Peñarrubia, his where she claimed the elections were attended by massive fraud, intimidation and employment of illegal and fraudulent devices and schemes.

Luna also said "acts of violence, terrorism and fraud committed by the allies of her opponent resulted in no less of 1,262 votes in the municipality of La Paz and Dangdas."

She lamented what she said was the neglect of law enforcement officers to stop the terrorism and fraud "as many of them owe their present positions to the Bernos clan's influence."

A YOUNG MAN leaves the area and remains in Abra to vote on May 10 in Bangued town. Elections in the province have been traditionally violent and some candidates are saying the just-concluded elections were not an exception. EDWIN CAMLIAN AGAPITO/INQUIRER.NET

Top Army exec in Mindanao: 3 men, not 2, beheaded

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THREE loggers, not two, were beheaded by their abductors in Mahuay town in Basilan over the weekend, police and military authorities insisted.

The heinous were gathering lumber in Sitio Bit, Barangay Aboap-Aboap, in Mahuay town on Friday when assaulted by an undetermined number of armed men.

On Saturday, the celebration of Independence Day, the decapitated bodies of Thede Lucindong, 47; Manuel Lumsang, 50; and Elpidio Alimorad, 42, were discovered kilometers away from where they were taken.

Lt. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) chief, said three loggers, not two, were beheaded.

"It's clear that our unit three killed. Col. [Cesar] Ordoyo, might have misguessed," Dolorfino said of reports quoting the Wesmincom's deputy commander as saying only two farmers were beheaded.

Ordoyo, however, stood to his statement yesterday.

Families uncooperative

Dolorfino said the three victims were working in Barangay Cabuhan in Sumisip town in Isabela province, but were residents of Mahuay town.

Senior Supt. Antonio Hicoleta, Basilan police chief, also said three victims were beheaded.

The victims' families, however, refused to cooperate with authorities after the beheadings.

"They even rejected the post-mortem that was offered by our SOCO (scene of the crime operatives) team," Hicoleta said.

Basilan Police Senior Inspector Jamsid Casilan said the beheading of the three.

"It is very unfortunate. I am just wondering about the military is doing in securing the people," Antonio told the Inquirer by phone.

Previous kidnaps

Hicoleta said the loggers were towing good lumber "and what are initially gathered in that there pieces of lumber were intended for Mahuay High-Tech Quality Woodcraft, which is owned by Chinese George Tan."

In December last year, Tan's three workers—Filipino Marjun Singson and Chinese nationals Zhuo Lucan Chi Chung Tan—were kidnapped by armed men.

A month later, Singson's decapitated body was recovered in Isabela City. The two Chinese were rescued on Feb. 28 in Zamboanga town. Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Reelected gov's death sparks debate over his replacement

By Alec Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE death last Sunday of reelected Negros Oriental Gov. Emilio Macias II has sparked a debate among lawyers here over who should replace him, a question that was likely to linger deeply because of a technicality—Macias II has not taken his oath of office yet.

Who would settle the debate, however, is left hanging.

Some lawyers said the vice-governor should be Vice Governor Agustin Perdices. Others said there was a need for special elections.

"There is no precedence in this case, according to Mikhail Lee Maxino, dean of the Silliman University of Law.

"The fine of succession will not kick in if the governor-elect was unable to take his oath because there's authority in that or he can be succeeded," said Maxino.

Clemente Teo, another lawyer and regional court administrator, said there might be a need to hold special elections, but "this would depend on whether the Comelec would call for it."

Teo said a likely scenario was for Perdices to take his oath as vice governor on June 30 then take another oath as acting governor.

Rep. George Arnaiz said the next governor should be Perdices.

"It's very simple—there's no reason for him to be acting governor if there's no governor to be sworn in. There's already a law that provides for it. When there's a vacancy existing in the office of the governor, the vice governor takes over," said Arnaiz said.

"It doesn't matter whether the governor-elect was able to take his oath or not because if he is able to take his oath and he dies, the same law will apply," he said.

Judge Antonio Kinatarcan, of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court, said the vice governor-elect should assume the post of governor.

WAITING FOR DAD

Children wait for the fishing boats of their fathers at the breakwater of Dalahican Village in Lucena City, a traditional fishing community that relies on the bounty of the sea for its livelihood. ERLINDA C. TAN-LAGUNDI/INQUIRER.NET

Gay group wants homosexuality to be taught kids, too

BAGUIO CITY—IF GOVERNment is ready to teach children about sex, shouldn't it be ready also to teach children about homosexuality so the gay community would no longer be a punch line to a joke?

The Lesbians for National Democracy (Lesbond) here has launched an education campaign on homosexuality and homophobia for universities and the media but which is also being considered as it may be used to reach out to elementary school pupils.

Small but

The group developed a module called from several matters' theme in the University of the Philippines Baguio, which describes the history, sociology and societal behavior that has sustained homophobia in the Philippines, said Lesbond member Jake Pabagsuan.

Lesbond, Pabagsuan said, picked up the campaign to counteract Filipinos about homosexuality after learning of a probe bitchas against gay workers issued last month by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The campaign was launched on June 8 as part of the celebration of the 4th Baguio Gay Pride, which culminates with a gay pride parade on June 27.

Lesbond also set up a "gay pride library," which is open from 9 to 6 p.m. at the local pub City Tavern. It is filled with novels, biographies, psychology books and theses on homosexuality.

Gender sensitive

Pabagsuan said the [representation of Education's decision to reintroduce sex education meant that government educators may also be open to a gender sensitive module on homosexuality.

"Gay literacy in grade school? Why not? [We should begin teaching children] gender sensitivity as one of the universally accepted human rights because each individual has the right to choose his or her own sexual orientation," said Lynn Mushiling, executive director of Bigkis Inc., a gender rights advocacy group.

But Mushiling said children may better appreciate homosexuality if it is not introduced in isolation from the new sex education modules.

"Introducing homosexuality as a separate [subject] would be like teaching Catholicism instead of Christianity as a whole, in my view," she said.

Pabagsuan said it would take Lesbond a long process before it would convince government to include topics on homosexuality in the classrooms.

During Lesbond's introductory studies lecture last week, Bel Bisquera, a Lesbond member and educator, said two well-known and influential gays were the first to be disavowed by the Church in countries that were invaded.

Islam and gays

But Pabagsuan said the group has not studied thoroughly how the module would address the aversion of Islamic societies to homosexuality.

"For the moment, we teach that Islam has the same anti-gay stance as the Judeo-Christian religions. Faith which is based on the Quran and Hadith [and influential guys were the first to be disavowed by the Church in countries that were invaded.

> 'For the moment, we teach that Islam has the same anti-gay stance as the Judeo-Christian religions... We may have to study how Filipino Muslims interact with local homosexual issues...'

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"We may have to study how Filipino Muslims interact with local homosexual issues," she said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Editor Teddyvic S. Melgar Jnr.
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortiz

SPORTS

CELTICS guard Rajon Rondo drives against Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant during third-quarter action in Game 5 in Boston.

Pierce stars as Celts near 18th crown

Boston takes 3-2 lead to LA

BOSTON—PAUL PIERCE SCORED 27 POINTS—HIS BEST PERFORMANCE of this year's Finals—as the Boston Celtics withstood 38 points from Kobe Bryant to beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 92-86, on Sunday and take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Game 6 is Tuesday in Los Angeles, and a victory then or in Game 7 in L.A. on Thursday would give the Celtics a record 18th NBA championship.

"We've got to get one. We're too close to not get one," Pierce said. "We've got to get one."

Pierce was the Most Valuable Player in the 2008 finals, when the new Big Three beat the Lakers to ease an NBA-record 17th banner to the rafters at Boston's TD Garden. Bryant was the finals MVP last year, when the Lakers beat the Orlando Magic to win their 15th championship.

Bryant outscored Pierce this time, but the Lakers' guard got little help from his teammates. And the stretch where he was most dominant was also the time when the Celtics pulled away.

"He's the kind of guy I'd trust you ride the last hand, don't for sure," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We were waiting for him to do that ... he's been there and found a rhythm."

With the "Beat L.A!" chant reminding in the Garden, Kevin Garnett scored 18 points with 10 rebounds and Rajon Rondo had 18 points, eight assists and five rebounds as help Boston become the first team in the series to win two games in a row.

If Los Angeles can't do the same at home, the Celtics will improve to 10-2 against them in the finals, from a 4-0 sweep over the Minneapolis Lakers to 1959 through the 62nd and Magic era of the '80s and Boston's win in 2008.

Bryant said neither the rivalry nor revenge should be motivating his teammates when they try to stave off elimination at home.

"Just come up and play. What the hell is the big deal?" he said. "If I have to say something to them, then we don't deserve to be champions. We've down 3-2. Us home, win one game, go into the next one. Simple as that."

Bryant scored 23 straight Lakers points between the 4:23 mark of the second quarter to all there was 2:16 left in the third. But that's also the time when the Celtics built their biggest lead: Over that span, they expanded the lead from six points to 20.

The Lakers got within six points several times, but never within five until Bryant made three free throws to make it 87-82 with 90 seconds left.

Bryant missed a series of desperation tries down the stretch, and when Allen made two free throws with 15 seconds left and Garnett one of two with 8.9 to play, it was over. AP

Asiad budget finalized under new PSC chair

By Jun Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE hopes to finalize the financial requirements of the national delegation to the Guangzhou Asian Games in November after the assumption of a new Philippine Sports Commission chief next month.

"I'm anxiously awaiting the appointment of the new chief so we could figure out the budget requirements," said POC chef de mission to the Asiad Joey Romasanta yesterday.

PSC chair Harry Angping, who will step down after Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino takes his oath as new President on June 30, had already laid the groundwork for the country's Asiad campaign, but the POC will set this aside to form a new one under a new PSC head.

Romasanta said the working committee for the Asiad preparations should come next month, flying the athletes who will represent the country to the Nov. 12 to 27 Games.

The Guangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee has set the deadline for submission of entries in the first week of September.

"We have to study the budget or the idea for us to count four to six-month budget," said Romasanta, adding that the POC has a contingency plan in case something goes wrong.

Romasanta said the Olympic body has a pool of private sponsors who helped finance the members of the national team, headpicked by the POC and whom the PSC assisted to fund, in last year's Southeast Asian Games.

"These private sponsors are ready to help us," said Romasanta.

GERMAN striker Thomas Mueller (left) challenges Australian midfielder Mile Jedinak in Sunday's Group D match.

Solid Germany destroys Australia

Ghana, Slovenia also post victorious World Cup debuts

JOHANNESBURG—THE YOUNGEST GERmany lineup in generations pounded 10-man Australia 4-0 at Durban on Sunday night to begin the country's bid for a fourth World Cup title.

In earlier matches, Ghana and Slovenia capitalized on opposing players being sent off for handball to each earn 1-0 victories.

Ghana became the first African team to win a World Cup match on African soil, beating Serbia, thanks to a late penalty from Asamoah Gyan in Pretoria.

Slovenia was helped by the commentator's lesser goalkeeping blunder to edge Algeria.

Meanwhile, a Brazil lineup teeming with global football stars will open its campaign against a North Korea squad they, and pretty much everyone else, knows very little about.

Australia was 'Ten Cahill was red-carded in the 36th minute.

Lukas Podolski and Miroslav Klose scored in the first 28 minutes, and Thomas Mueller and Cacau added the others against an overwhelmed Australian defense.

"We missed respect," Klose said. "We're a young team and we have fun playing."

Cahill was dismissed for a late challenge on German Schweinsteiger.

The dominant win came without injured captain Michael Ballack.

Klose's strike drew him level with Juergen Klinsmann as Germany's second most prolific World Cup marksman with 11. Gerd Mueller tops the list with 14 goals.

In the opening Group D match, Gyan calmly slotted a penalty high into the net in the 85th minute to give Ghana the three points.

Ghana was awarded the penalty when Zdravko Kuzmanovic rounded up to handle a cross that seemed to pose little danger.

In Polokwane, Algeria's Rafael Chaouchi followed England's Robert Green into goalkeeping spawning, resulting a seemingly easy save to allow Robert Koren's speculative long shot to bounce off his arm and into the net.

Green's mistake allowed the United States to equalize in a 1-1 draw Saturday.

The Netherlands tackles Denmark in Soweto's Soccer City on Monday. That will be followed by Cameroon against Japan in Rustenburg before defending champion Italy opens against Paraguay in Cape Town.

Stags loom big as NCAA starts June 26

By Cedell P. Tupas

WITH A SHOT AT HIS TITLE UNDER IT STILL hot, Sebastian looks more formidable when it begins its quest for back-to-back NCAA championship title this month.

But coach Jun Agustin believes the Stags' play still leaves much to be desired.

"There are still facets of our game that we need to work on especially our defense," said Agustin after the Stags hammered out a thrilling 53-42 victory over defending champion Far Eastern University in the PBL-Philippine V Fore Pre-Season Cup crown Sunday night.

With Agustin at the helm, the Stags have enjoyed tremendous success in the last eight months. After clinching the NCAA title last year, the Stags won the CESAFI National Games title and added much the medieval squad that bagged the PBL crown early this year.

The FEU victory made it four titles in less than a year for the Stags and Agustin.

"The key for us is to stay aggressive," Agustin said.

This early, the Stags have already been billed as favorites to repeat in the NCAA, along with San Beda.

"I think San Sebastian and San Beda are the teams to watch out for this year because they have an intact lineup," said Jose Read Collegiate coach Angel Montero.

The Stags open their NCAA campaign against Letran on June 26 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Perpetual Altas FilOil cheerleading champ

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL Help Dep Igsad landed on its own perfect execution to capture the FilOil Flying V San Marino cheerleading competition for the second straight year Sunday night.

The Altas beat out seven other dance crews with an overall score of 91.49 points in a slideshow held after the San Sebastian Stags captured the basketball crown at the FilOil Flying V arena in San Juan.

La Salle settled for second with 82.84 points, narrowly beating Adamson University which amassed 82.83.

The chambions competition capped the final day of the premier cammeo varsity tournament hosted by Mighty Bond Enzyme, Total Phils. Corp., San Mateo Corrugated Tuna, Accel, Filoil Gas Co., Flying V and Hanabishi ads.

Eight pep squads made it to the finals based on their halftime performances during the women's game.

The other cheerleading finalists were Jose Rizal University (82.38), University of the East (79.65), National University (78.09), Arellano University (68.89) and Emilio Aguinaldo College (69.66).

The Stags dethroned the Far Eastern University Tamaraws, 79-78, in a thrilling winner-take-all varsity encounter.

The Stags' Jeff Viernes hit the game-winning basket with 0.4 seconds left in the game.

The Stags improved to 2-0 in the best-of-three series.

The Tamaraws had a chance to win the game in the last seconds but Jeff Javillonar's three-point attempt was off the mark.

Viernes led the Stags with 18 points, while Javillonar had 16 points.

THE STAGS whoop it up after sipping the Far Eastern U Tamaraws in Sunday night's championship game of the FilOil Flying V tournament.

Pacman Warriors host 2nd leg of PBL-Liga tomorrow

THE TOURNAMENT OF THE PHILIPpines heads to General Santos City for its second leg starting tomorrow with the Manny Pacquiao Warriors, the basketball team owned by boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, hosting three other teams.

Pacquiao is expected to suit up when his Warriors duels with the Tomas Cagayan Stallions, Mark Montano and Cebu Investors in the four-day round-robin leg.

"He's listed to play," league executive director Butch Mondejar yesterday said.

Pacquiao, the newly elected congressional representative of Sarangani in Congress, recently received the Fighter of the Decade Award from the Boxing Writers' Association of America in New York.

Mr. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala Cebu ruled the first leg of the tournament, a joint venture between the Philippine Basketball League and Liga Filipinas.

The Nikor, the Liga team powered by big MVP Stephen Dwilla, gained 11 points for bagging the leg title and sweeping their two games last week.

Jasmine W. Payo

HOOPLA CHAMPS Members of the Muntinlupa team, led by coach Siegfried Lerma (with trophy) and MVP Kevin Racal (right) show the tournament's replica of a check for P250,000 they won after beating Pasig, 82-76, and bagging the 1st Coca-Cola Hoopla championship at the Muntinlupa Sports Center. Also in photo are Cebu Figers/PBA governor Jil Bayles (standing fourth from left), Cebu's Gerald Francisco and Rodney Santos, and organizers Jojo Villa and reddebbil coach Jon Cipa (second from right).

Pacman willing to fight Hatton, Cotto

PACQUIAO: If Ricky Hatton or Miguel Cotto wants a rematch... INTERNET PHOTO

Mayweather battle can wait

By Ray Leaves

MANNY PACQUIAO YESTERDAY SAID HE IS NOT OBSESSED WITH FIGHTING FLOYD Mayweather Jr. next.

The seven-time Filipino world champion in as many divisions, who arrived yesterday morning from a vacation in the United States and Mexico, said he is ready to also do battle with former victims Ricky Hatton of Britain and Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico.

Interviewed by ABS-CBN at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Pacquiao—now a congressman-elect from Sarangani, who was honored as Fighter of the Year and Fighter of the Decade by the Boxing Writers Association of America on June 4 in New York—confirmed that negotiations are going on for a possible megabuck showdown with the unbeaten American Mayweather in September.

At the same time, Pacquiao said he is willing to give either Hatton, whom he knocked out in the second round on May 2, 2009, or Cotto, whose he stopped in the 12th round on Nov. 14, a rematch.

"Anytime," said Pacquiao. "I don't donate who I'm going to fight. For me it's (fighting anyone other than Mayweather) always okay."

In an interview with television recently, Golden Boy Promotions president Oscar De La Hoya disclosed that negotiations are close to finalizing the details of a Pacquiao-Mayweather showdown, which is projected to reward each boxer at least $40,000,000.

Though scrubbed by Pacquiao in their 143-pound duel, Cotto outshined a second look after the Puerto Rican dethroned Yuri Foreman with a ninth-round TKO in their WBA junior middleweight championship fight on June 5.

A Pacquiao-Cotto II will be at 154 pounds, which could give the Filipino pound-for-pound king his eighth world championship.

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Fide launches $1-M 'Campo' Cup

By Ray Leaves

THE WORLD CHESS FEDERATION (FIDE) will honor the late Florencio Campomanes with a tournament befitting his immense contributions to the sport.

Fide president Ilyumzhinov announced last week that the world body is putting up a whopping prize fund of $1 million to handout in the staging of the first leg of the Florencio Campomanes Memorial Cup chess championship in Manila in August.

A protege of Campomanes, who served as Fide president from 1982-95 and was its honorary president until his death last month, Ilyumzhinov attended the meeting of the Asian Chess Confederation chaired by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines at the Solaire Resort on Friday.

Ilyumzhinov said a total of 10 tournaments each with prizes of $100,000 each are slated to be held over 18 years in the Philippines, Asian rivals in preparation for the memory of Campomanes, one of the country's first National Masters and three-Olympian.

CAMPOMANES

The Campomanes memorial tournament tees off on June 21 to 29 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

NCFP president Prospero "Boboi" Pichay and Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan Bin Kalifah Al Nahyan, who also attended the meeting, lauded Ilyumzhinov for sponsoring this tournament.

"The whole Asian region, especially the Filipinos, are very thankful for Ilyumzhinov for sponsoring these memorial tournaments in honor of Campomanes," said Pichay during the meeting also attended by Philippine chess secretary Ignatius Leong of Singapore and representatives of the 10 Asian countries.

For his part, NCFP secretary general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino said the memorial tournaments will give the players the opportunity to honor Campomanes through their participation.

At stake in the tournament, divided into three age categories, are $70,000 in the Open division, $20,000 in the women's category and $10,000 in the challenger section.

The champion in the Open category will bring home the top prize of $10,000.

The winners in the women's division and challenger section will receive $5,000 and $3,000, respectively.

The 20 tournaments are expected to draw top players from Europe and other parts of the world, said FCP official Willie Makes.

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Japanese misses perfect game; Manalaysay leads

MANALAYSAY

JAPANESE TSUSANE FUJITA MISSED a perfect game even as Filipino Francis Manalaysay surged ahead in the 19th Philippine International Open Temple Bowling Championships at Darag's Midtown Bowl inside the Robinsons Place in Ermita, Manila.

Trying in the meet's senior singles, the 57-year-old Fujita, armed with a 15-pound Brother-Arrow ball, opened up with nine straight strikes in the second of his three-game series and looked poised to become the first bowler to score a perfect game in Asian 33 and 34.

But with play halted in the rest of the lanes, the native of Shiga prefecture could only muster a split in the 10th frame en route to a 266.

Counting his 213 in the first game and 203 in the third, Fujita, who boasts a 205 average, posted 682 to go with an earlier 567 total for a six-game output of 1,249, good for sixth place in the senior's masters qualifiers.

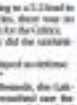
MTBA's Manalaysay led the personal meet's senior standings with 1,330 and a 216.33 average in the event supported by UPHS Dalta and Jumbo Sonessa, Pagcor Sports, SOT, PSC, PCSO, Amway, Timberpro and Colgate-Palmolive.

Jibbs (958) Steve Rubico was second (1,298), Japanese Tomokazu Maeda third (1,285), LCTBA's Gino Arroyo fourth (1,278) and PTBA's Ike Pineda fifth (1,257).

In the ladies' seniors qualifiers, PBA's Marina Campita was at the top (1,332), followed by PBC secretary general Bong Coo of MBA Timberpro-Prima (1,142), PBA's Stella Sarino third (1,119), MBA's Carmen Tabong fourth (1,114) and PBA's Mila Robles fifth (1,098).

Cue and players from Indonesia, Australia and Hong Kong will soon arriving today. Steve Salbo, Guamtabor

LA Lakers: Losing made easy



BARE EYE
Recah Trinidad

NOTHING WRONG WITH LOSING, especially on the road, but Phil's LA Lakers have all the reason to feel totally discouraged after Game 5 of the NBA Finals yesterday.

The Lakers, in surrendering to the Boston Celtics away from home, gave away more or losing.

They made winning look easy for the Celtics.

On a night filled with great expectations of the dramatic kind clubs, the Lakers cut off the right cue.

They played a passive defense.

They, seemingly, made it look very convenient for the other team.

* * *

How?

The Celtics, in Game 4, had to scrape bottom after their stars caught up in the homestretch.

Hand-powered, the Celtics had to call in a couple of so-called spare stars.

Nate Robinson and "Big Baby" Davis came up with unexpected heroics to save it for Boston.

* * *

Of course, in taking Game 5 Boston also had to rely on spirited efforts by its role players with great intangibles to the homecourt.

Please remember that, after Rondo, it was Derek Fisher's turn to take charge down the wire for LA in Game 5.

Sorry, but in pushing to a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series, there was no surprise star to thank for the Celtics.

The Lakers simply did the unthinkable.

They practically played to retrieve.

* * *

"Nobody plays defensively, the Celtics' way, and hasn't mustered one for the first eight minutes of the third quarter," writer Mark Heisler of the Los Angeles Times.

Of course, this was also where Kobe Bryant swept on a streak and scored 39 of his 39 points for the evening.

Bonus, unmistakably, dominated the offensive boards.

Kobe's sparkling wave of no-nonsense moves he was done, Bonus was still empty 11 points.

"The Celtics made it or, when they missed, got it back and put it up again until it went in," Heisler continues.

* * *

It was a close game of the oldest LA first System cracking in frugueuse against the solid Boston team effort.

Bryant had another display of an predator/point-making, but he was for by several of removing to the Super Hagrid-ed.

With Kobe refusing to give back the ball, Bonus was able to complete a total of 11 makes against only 2 by LA.

* * *

Of course, all is not lost for the Lakers, who will play Game 6 at the Staples Center tomorrow.

Anyway, if LA twice ago, Tim Canel, Lamar Odom and even Ron Artest, who failed cupidly yesterday, must be ready to leave the arsenal list.

There must be no repeat of yesterday's dizzying third quarter (in LA) when the Lakers, according to the LA Times, "gave it away, when everything they had accomplished this point season went up in flames."

SHOT-CLOCK PHILOSOPHY: "They did it really good. 6-0 of opening the second half done. Rajon! Rondo! in (Kevin Garnett to Ray) Allen on."

He refused to comment when told his new mode "losing relentless."

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Smart-Manila rules Nokia NCR caging

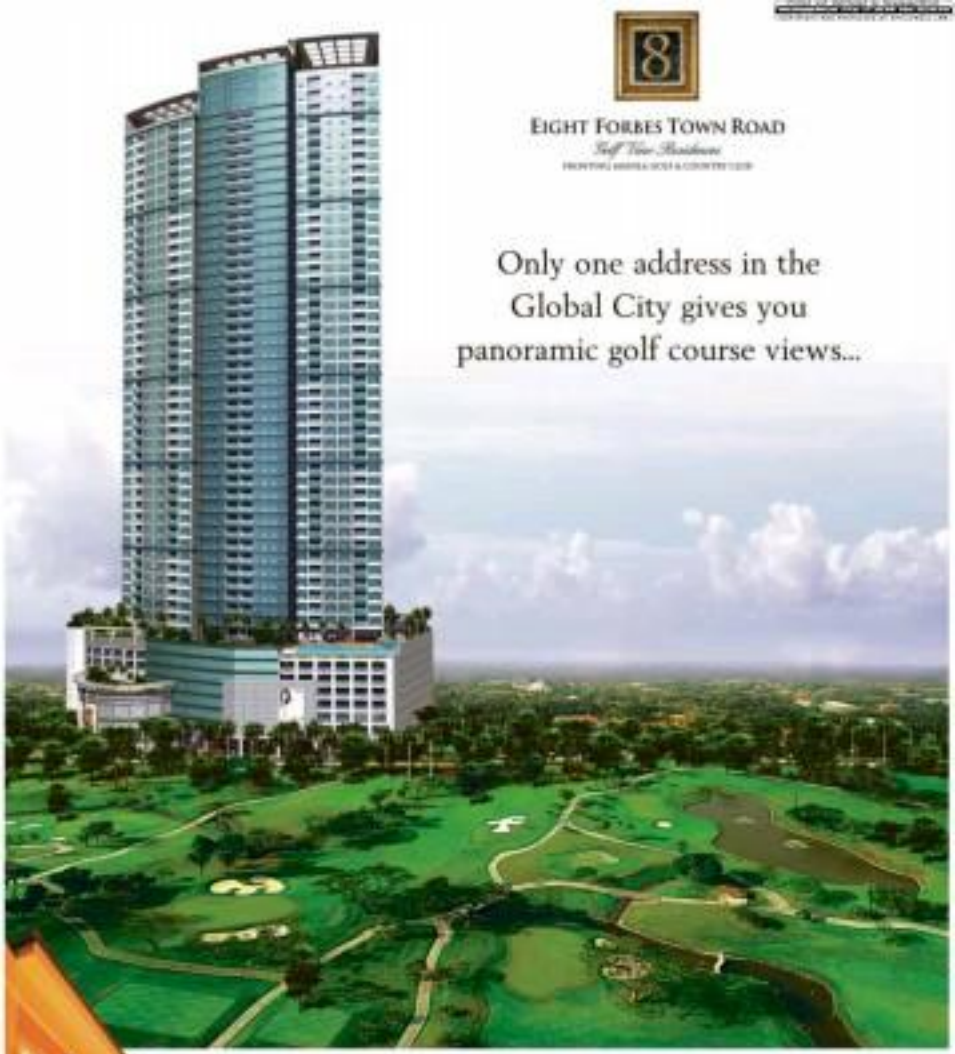
SMART-MANILA DREW DOUBLE figures from four key players to rout Xavier School-San Juan, 92-33, and grab the NCR national crown of the Nokia National Basketball Training Center (NBTC) D-league recently at the San Juan Gym.

Mike Tolosina squeezed with a game-high 13 points, Dave Montalbo chipped in 11 and Jay Alejandro and Chris Javier made 10 apiece for the Smart-Manila five.

Magnolia-Purefoods, which lost 75-77 to Xavier School-San Juan in the semifinals, finished third while B-Meg Issuga-Manila was fourth.

Tolosina made it to the Mythical Five along with teammate Alfonso Gotladera, Xavier-San Juan's Aron Tang, B-Meg Manila's Mark Cruz and Magnolia-Purefoods' Mark Ellano.

Special awards went to Smart-Manila's Banzz Asare (Most Outstanding Player), Magnolia-Purefoods's Timothy Bernas (Most Prevailing Player) and Xavier-San Juan's Bryan Tan (Sportsmanship Award).



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DID YOU KNOW

IN ACADEMIC year 2008 to 2009, there were more than 37,000 public elementary schools and more than 6,000 public high schools in the country. (April 1, Datablog, Inquirer Research)

San Lorenzo folk sue village chair

Malversation raps filed in connection with P43-M street lighting project

By Nina Calleja

ELEVEN WOMEN RESIDENTS OF ONE OF THE MOST AFfluent villages in Makati City have filed a complaint for malversation of funds against their barangay chair with the Office of the Ombudsman.

The charge against Barangay San Lorenzo chair Joshua John Santiago was filed last Thursday by Mirla Luisa Tolauda, Maria Luisa Chikiamco, Marilyn Mayuyuko, Gladness Pe, Sadeness Olivencia, Emilita Crisostomo, Adelaida Angan, Felicidad Reyes, Victoria Villacorta, Renato Domingo and Carmina Ortega.

In a 12-page complaint, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, the residents said that Santiago was a "public official who [could not] longer be trusted" because of his "inefficient, ineffective and dishonest" use of barangay funds.

The complaint mentioned several allegedly anomalous projects implemented by Santiago, including the purchase of 1,200 lamp posts priced at P50,000 each. Of the total, 670 posts were not installed.

According to the women residents, the Makati Commercial Estate Association (Macea) had disagreed that there was a need to install new lamp posts. However, Santiago pushed through

SAN LORENZO A23

MMDA defends dismantling of new advertisements

By Mike Cabuja

METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) officials yesterday defended demolitions from the dismantling Mad against them for an outdoor advertising company as they stressed that the dismantling of some advertisements pushed on waiting sheds, street lights and pedestrian overpasses were legal and not covered by a court order.

Lawyer Rachelle Maxquiz, head of the MMDA legal and legislative affairs, said in a statement that the advertisements taken down by their personnel were installed just right after the City Advertising Structures Corp. (City Ads) and were not covered by the temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Makati Regional Trial Court on June 22, 2006.

The statement was in response to the four counts of indirect contempt charges filed by City Ads against officials of the MMDA, including Chair Oscar Inocentes, for allegedly violating the TRO order.

The judge also appointed additional sheriffs last month to enforce the order.

Status quo

Maxquiz, however, insisted that the TRO was primarily aimed at maintaining the status quo between the two parties and that it did not authorize City Ads to install new advertisements in public places.

"The TRO was designed to preserve the status quo until the merits of the case could be heard," she said.

"And they (City Ads) might have the wrong impression that the TRO gave them the blanket authority to install new advertisements which were never included in the original complaint and in the TRO," she added.

Maxquiz said it was unfair to enforce the writ against the MMDA alone, ordering it to stop tearing down advertisements while allowing City Ads to continue putting up banners, billboards and posters indiscriminately.

Inocentes, on the other hand, said that City Ads did not even secure the necessary permit from the agency when it installed the advertisements as provided for under MMDA Resolution No. 04-004.

"The policy of the firm's advertisements were installed in areas not thoroughfares which were under the (MMDA) jurisdiction.

"These ads obstruct the motorists' view of the road and cause the shortages of (drivers sense by 141 driving wind," Inocentes said on the phone.

"Even though they secured a permit from the local government, most or (San (Manila Electric Co.) for the use of the lamp posts, (City Ads) should not have ignored the (MMDA," he added.

Did Ping Lacson talk with P-Noy?

PRESIDENT-ELECT SEN. BENIGNO "Noynoy" Aquino III or P-Noy as he prefers to be called, talked with Sen. Ping Lacson over the phone after his proclamation by Congress, according to one of P-Noy's close aides.

Let's hope the conversation between the President-elect and the fugitive from justice ensures touched only on his victory in the recent polls.

That is, if the conversation ever took place.

P-Noy would be reaping criticisms this early if his supposed phone conversation with Lacson was about his coming home and being given VIP treatment while in detention, or worse, being granted bail.

Lacson is charged with multiple counts of murder and kidnapping the abduction and murder of PR man Bubby Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

No bail has been recommended for Lacson.

* * *

The P-Noy administration will be making a big mistake if it retains Director Nestor Mantaring of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) who's lobbying to be retained until his retirement two years from now.

Mantaring is not only the most incompetent chief the premier law enforcement agency has ever had, he's also a coddler of criminals.

Agent Ramon C. Antiman, whose conviction for homicide has been affirmed by the Supreme Court, continues to be a member of the NBI Special Task Force, upon Mantaring's orders.

Another agent, Noel Bonding, although under suspension for harassing two female government officials over a minor traffic incident, still reports to Mantaring.

An NBI insider told me Mantaring and Bonding are partners in a brokerage business, Dalahind Brokerage.

It's embarrassing if an NBI chief can pursue top skills while officials in a business venture.

* * *

P-Noy's search committee would do well to consider recruiting people who are not seeking positions in the government.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

Many administration.

Those who are applying for positions or have asked to be retained most likely have personal or adverse matters, while those who are not, or those who are competent, will make excellent public officials.

From where I sit, I can see who will make an excellent secretary of justice although he's relatively unknown: Dean Antonio Abad of Ateneo de Manila University College of Law.

Abad graduated cum laude from the Eastern University College of Law in 1963 and was one of the last topnotchers that same year.

I'm not one who's easily impressed by the intelligence of others, but I was impressed by Abad when I listened to him talk before Ateneo law graduates and varsity members at Blue Boy Restaurant in Katipunan Ave. several months ago.

By the way he delivered his speech without notes, he struck me as a man of letters and of the law.

That was the first time I met Abad.

I learned later that Abad hosted a TV show about matters of law in the UNTV station.

* * *

I apologize for including John Richard D. Fernandez and Arma Katrina Hernandez as among those charged with emails and with violating a presidential decree protecting buyers of subdivision lots and condominium units.

The Taguig City Prosecutor's Office dropped the charges filed by businesswoman Maria Isabel Batchelo against the Hernandezes for "lack of probable cause."

The other respondents were Menardo R. Jimenez, a former ONH 7 official; Kevin G. Robinette, son of Quezon City Mayor and newly elected Rep. Sonny Belmonte; Raul S. Martinez, Victor S. Martinez, Ramon B. Benevento and Ryan Villarino.

Kho lawyer claims Halili knew about video cam

THE CAMP OF FORMER CLUB-city doctor Hayden Kho said yesterday that an inspection of the hotel room where he videotaped himself having sex with his actress Katrina Halili, three years ago would prove that there was someone on her part.

"It's not possible there was no camera," Kho's lawyer, Lorna Kapunan, told the hearing. She said Halili was so familiar her facilities that the former model had booked was "too small" for Halili not to have seen the video camera mounted on the television set.

Earlier, Halili insisted that she had not known about the camera and her lawyer, Raymund Fortun, said they agreed to the inspection to settle the matter of where the camera had been placed.

This morning, Judge Rodolfo Bonifacio of the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 159 will decide whether to push through with the ocular inspection of the hotel room.

The two parties want to establish the details of when and what time the videotaping occurred and if the sex tape had indeed been taken without Halili's knowledge as she told the court.

In last week's hearing, Halili, when cross-examined by Kapunan, said she was in the bathroom of the hotel room, while the camera could have been placed.

But Halili said she could not remember the exact details, but insisted that she was in the center to subpoena the hotel management for its ocular inspection.

Kapunan said the defense would try to prove that there was no way Halili could not have seen the camera, considering the distance of the TV set to the end of the bed.

She was arrested by Halili's relatives Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act when he allegedly uploaded on the Internet a sex video of her. He is facing an illegally-uploaded sex knowledge and consent.

Other videos of him having sex with other women also circulated online and caused a scandal to show business.

(CJ Sy)

SPD puts up help desks in areas near schools

By Mike Morales

IN PREPARATION FOR THE opening of classes today, the Southern Police District (SPD) has activated its public assistance desks in areas with a high concentration of students.

In an interview, Chief Supt. Jose Erino de los Santos, SPD director, said he had instructed his personnel to position their assistance desks in front of schools.

"This is part of our antiterrorism operation. I have ordered my men to increase police visibility when schools open [today]," De los Santos said.

Patrols stepped up

Erino last week, policemen on mobile and foot patrols have stepped up their monitoring in the areas and lone municipality under it, SPD's jurisdiction—Makati, Pasay, Taguig, Pateros, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Parañaque—as drove any criminal activity.

At the same time, De los Santos also ordered SPD intelligence operatives to conduct regular checks in identified crime-ridden areas for criminal and other criminals wanting to strike.

The increased police patrols began as early as last week when a number of private schools opened its doors to students.

Meanwhile, police assistance desks will also be established at the public schools to serve and the public should they fall victims to robbers.

AN ENCOMPASS Brahmanoids for the name in the list of new students at Bonifacio Junior High School in Mandaluyong City. (STAR/RICHARD VISCONDE)

Authorities have also coordinated with barangay officials and school administrators, briefing them about the security situation in their areas and informing them about procedures to follow in case a suspicious-looking person is monitoring the situation in their areas. They would also be the first to respond in case of untoward incidents.

De los Santos, meanwhile, cautioned that ensuring the security of students was not solely the job of policemen but also the responsibility of the community.

"Without their help, our efforts would be fruitless. But a reality is that there are areas where all stakeholders must do their roles," the SPD chief said.

METROBRIEFS

Cook stabbed dead in house in Tondo

MANILA police homicide investigators have started looking for a seven-year-old boy who was in the company of a 30-year-old cook before the latter's murder in the early hours of the morning. Police Senior Inspector Jeffrey Asuncion said the woman could help them find out who stabbed Angelito Quintano inside his house in Tondo, Manila. The victim's body was discovered on Sunday afternoon by his girlfriend, Jackie. The girl said the victim had texted her to say that he had a woman visitor. "I texted him and asked from how he was but he replied that he had a woman in his room. I asked him who his female visitor was but he never texted back," she told the police.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Body of man found in QC creek

THE body of a man believed to be suffering from mental illness was found in a creek in Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. The victim was fished out of the Kanlaktan Creek in Barangay Commonwealth at around 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. Joint investigator PO2 Gregorio Bernaya of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit described the man as between 20 and 25 years old, 5'6" tall and dressed in a pair of brown shorts and a black sleeveless T-shirt. They said the body was found by scavengers Reynaldo Antolin and Jose Quiana who were on their way home when they noticed the body floating in the creek. They immediately told the police about their find. A resident near the area, Venelita Sarmiento, said she often sees the victim going down to the water to wash his hair, adding that she suspected him to be suffering from mental illness. Police noticed an abrasion on the victim's chin but no other signs of external injuries.

John H. Aquino

San Lorenzo... From page A1

with the project.

Tantingco's purchase of 1,300 lamp posts amounting to P42.9 million when the barangay actually needed to install only about 530 lamp posts, resulted in an overpurchase of about 670 lamp posts (worth) P26.5 million. He caused damage, prejudice and undue injury to Barangay San Lorenzo," Story said.

Two weeks ago, Santiago was ordered suspended by the Makati City Council based on administrative complaints filed against barangay councilors in connection with the project.

The suspension, however, was cut short by then Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

An investigation conducted by the Commission on Audit earlier this year said the barangay purchased too many lamp posts, resulting in the unnecessary spending of P22 million. It also discovered irregularities in P6.3 worth of Sangguniang Kabataan projects.

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach Santiago for comment.

Baby boy with congenital heart ailment needs financial help

By Santiago R. Alcantara

THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPment of two-year-old Zach Stalin Pulanda has not been normal because of a congenital heart disease.

"At his age, he doesn't seem to be growing, he cannot even walk yet," the boy's worried parent, Imelda Pulanda, told the Inquirer in Filipino.

PALADIO

Zach's father, Rodel, works as a community janitor in Barangay San Gabriel, Antipolo City for P300 a day.

He's with "cyanotic, tetralogy of Fallot with pulmonary valve stenosis," Zach is scheduled to undergo catheterization on June 28 at Philippine General Hospital.

"The doctors tell us he needs an immediate operation...We can no longer stand seeing him always carrying blue, Imelda said.

Important results as can call Teresita at 0917-5865845. They may also deposit their donations in the account of Christian J. Bautista Zach's uncle, with whom the family is staying, at any Banco de Oro branch (account number 1280134178).

Israel unveils own 'independent' commission to probe flotilla raid

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL HAS SET up an "independent public commission" to investigate its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in a long-awaited move that the military was set to endorse during on Monday.

The committee, which will include two foreign observers, was established to conduct an internal investigation into the legal aspects of the operation in which its navy commandos killed nine Turkish activists.

Hours after the late-night announcement, Cabinet members met in Jerusalem where they were expected to give their stamp of approval to the make-up and mandate of the inquiry commission.

Israel, which has consistently rejected calls for an international probe into the events of May 31, said retired Israeli Supreme Court judge Yaakov Tirkel would chair the commission.

In a move to boost the credibility of the probe, the government also named two foreign observers: Irish Nobel Peace Prize winner David Trimble and Ken Watkin, a former judge advocate general of the Canadian Armed Forces.

In light of the exceptional circumstances of the incident, it was decided to appoint two foreign experts who will serve as observers," a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

But it was not clear when powers Trimble and Watkin would have, and the statement noted they would not be able "to vote in addition to the proceedings and conclusions of the commission." The two would also be denied access to documents or information if it was "almost certain to cause substantial harm to national security or to the state's foreign relations." Netanyahu's office said the commission's mandate was to examine Israel's naval blockade of Gaza and its legality under international law and the "actions taken by Israel to enforce the naval blockade in the incidents of 31 May 2010 with the rules of international law."It would also examine "the actions taken by the organizers of the flotilla and its participants, as well as their identity." The US welcomed the announcement as "an important step forward," but said it expected the investigation to be carried out promptly.

"While Israel should be afforded the time to complete its process, we expect Israel's current and military investigation will be carried out promptly," said a statement by White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

The idea expects that, upon completion, its findings will be presented publicly and will be presented to the international community," Canada also welcomed the Israeli announcement but said it also understood Israel's reasons for wanting to prevent ships from reaching Gaza in defiance of the naval blockade. AFP

Israel's Gaza blockade breaks law–Red Cross

GENEVA—THE INTERNATIONAL Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Monday Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip violates the Geneva conventions and called for its lifting.

The general humanitarian agency also urged Hamas Islamist militants holding Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, captured nearly four years ago in a cross-border raid, to allow his family to have regular contact with him, in line with international law.

Israel's raid on a Gaza aid flotilla two weeks ago, in which nine pro-Palestinian Turkish activists were killed, highlighted acute hardships faced by 1.5 million Hamas due to the closure since 2007, it said. They endure unemployment, poverty and overflow, and health care whose quality is at an "all-time low". "The whole of Gaza's civilian population is being punished for acts for which they bear no responsibility. The closure therefore constitutes a collective punishment imposed in clear violation of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law," the ICRC said in a five-page statement.

It was the first time the ICRC has said explicitly that Israel's blockade constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law embodied in the Geneva conventions, an ICRC spokesperson said. The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, ratified by Israel, bans collective punishment of a civilian population.

Israel is entitled to impose restrictions on military material for legitimate security reasons, but the scope of the closure is disproportionate, covering items of basic necessity, according to the ICRC.

"We are urging Israel as per an end to this closure and call upon all those who have an influence on the situation, including Hamas, to do their utmost to help Gaza's civilian population," said Beatrice Megevand-Hegglin, head of ICRC operations for the Middle East.

The ICRC said Hamas had continually rebuffed its requests to allow its officials to visit Shalit in detention.

"In violation of international humanitarian law, it has also refused to allow him to get in touch with his family," it said.

Under customary international humanitarian law, captors holding detainees must allow their family contacts, while the Geneva conventions require that they be treated humanely. Reuters

PALESTINIANS between cars from sea to the Gaza Strapon on June 14. Gaza has been mired in poverty for decades, but its embargo by Israel deepened the misery, erasing tens of thousands of jobs and preventing repair of damage from the Israeli offensive. AG/AFP

Separatist party wins big in Belgian election

BRUSSELS—VOTERS GAVE A reassuring win to pragmatic elections to a Flemish separatist party that wants Dutch- and French-speakers to end years of acrimonious linguistic disputes—or go their own way and break up Belgium.

The New Flemish Alliance on Sunday shook up Belgium's Mid-Sweet political scene, winning 27 seats, up 29 from the 2007 elections, to become Belgium's biggest party.

It win was a withering report card on Premier Yves Leterme's outgoing coalition of Christian Democrats, Liberals and Socialists—split into Dutch- and French-speaking factions—whose three years in office were marked by infuriating linguistic spats that remained unresolved.

The election outcome was seen as a warning to Francophone politicians to negotiate seriously about granting Dutch and French-speakers more autonomy, or Dutch-speaking Flanders will both.

The reaction in Wallonia was one of shock.

The daily Le Soir said "Flanders has chosen a new king," referring to Bart De Wever, 39, leader of the New Flemish Alliance who urged "Francophones to make (a country) that works."

Belgium's 6.5 million Dutch speakers and 4 million Francophones live very side by side lives.

Just about everything have—from political parties to broadcasters to boy scouts and rooting hobbies...already comes in Dutch- and French-speaking versions. Even charities such as the Red Cross and Amnesty International have separate chapters.

De Wever spoke an orderly victory of Belgium. His party accuses Wallonia, Belgium's poorer southern half, of bad governance that has raised the ashlum rate to double that of Flanders, the Dutch-speaking north.

On Monday, King Albert is expected to start four-or-five meetings with political leaders to see who should form a new government. In 2007, those talks lasted more than six months. AP

US orders BP to set up fund for oil spill claims

WASHINGTON—US OFFICIALS demanded on Sunday that BP set up a special fund to pay oil spill victims and said President Barack Obama will give a rare White House address next week, in a sign of the seriousness of the disaster both for the country and his presidency.

As Obama prepared to raise stricken voters on his beach's ruin in the Gulf of Mexico since the disaster, top aides ordered BP to set up an escrow account to pay legitimate claims and for an independent panel oversee the process.

The announcement of a prime-time televised address at 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday marked a significant elevation in the Obama administration's strategy on the oil crisis.

"The president is going down to the gulf on Monday and Tuesday to the states he hasn't visited—Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. When he returns he will address the nation from the Oval Office," top aide David Axelrod said.

"We're at a kind of inflection point in this saga. He wants to lay out the steps we'll take from here to get through this crisis," Axelrod, Obama's senior advisor, told NBC television's "Meet The Press" program.

It is extraordinarily rare for presidents to use the formal setting of a prime-time televised address from the White House. Such addresses are often reserved for moments of national crises, including wars and disasters.

Obama has yet to give an Oval Office address in the American people, though it has not been derided yet whether he will appear at the presidential desk flanked by US flags in that setting, on Tuesday evening.

Obama's address and the more outspoken demands of BP suggest a concerted effort to be more aggressive on the disaster as angry Americans are confronted by disturbing images of oiled birds and toxic tendrils spoiling Eagle wetlands.

BP has failed several times to seal the flow and a final relief well that would provide a permanent solution is not predicted to be ready until the second week of August at the earliest. AFP

Gunmen storm Iraq's central bank; 26 killed

BAGHDAD—INSURGENTS wearing military uniforms stormed Iraq's central bank on Tuesday during an apparent robbery attempt, battling security forces in a three-hour standoff after bombs exploded nearby in a coordinated daylight attack that left at least 26 dead.

The assault on Iraq's top financial institution underlined how insurgents are taking advantage of political instability after December's March 7 national elections to try to derail security gains as the US prepares to withdraw its troops by the end of next year.

The 223-member parliament was due to convene on Monday, but analysts have said agreement on a new government could still be months away.

Iraqi military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi blamed the attack on al-Qaeda in Iraq, but said no money had been stolen from the bank, which holds gold deposits as well as US and Iraqi currency.

The violence began with the bombings—which sent plumes of smoke over the city skyline...although there were conflicting reports about the number and nature of the blasts.

The first bomb went off on the road near an electrical generator al-Mansour said. Insurgents wearing Army uniforms then tried to enter the bank through two entrances, exchanging gunfire with the guards.

He said three suicide bombers detonated their explosive vests at the main entrance of the bank, while nine other militants were killed by security forces at the second gate.

Iraqi security forces then stormed the building, prompting a standoff that lasted at least three hours, according to al-Moussawi's account.

An unknown number of militants managed to get to a high-rise floor and set a fire in there some documents and may have escaped by blending in with the bank employees, he added, implying the motive appeared to be to steal the bank's deposits, then blow up the building. AP

JAPAN'S Hayabusa space probe vaunts a circuit across the night sky in Woomera, South Australia. AG/AFP

Japanese probe lands in Australia carrying unique asteroid dust

SYDNEY—A JAPANESE SPACE probe has landed in the Australian outback after a seven-year voyage to an asteroid, safely returning a capsule containing a unique sample of dust, Japanese mission controllers said on Monday.

The Hayabusa probe blazed a spectacular trail over Australia before slamming into the desert at around midnight local time, ending a journey to the near-Earth asteroid Itokawa that began in 2003.

A spokesperson for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) told Reuters the first images available indicated the capsule carrying the precious cargo had survived.

Mike Gamble, Australian defense officials flew local aboriginal elders to the site by helicopter to verify that no sacred sites had been damaged. A defense spokesperson said the indigenous leaders had cleared the way for the capsule to be recovered later on Monday.

Hayabusa, which means falcon in Japanese, landed on the largely shaped asteroid in 2005 and scientists think it managed to pick up a small sample of material. If successful, it would be the first time a spacecraft has brought such a sample back to Earth, other than from moon missions.

Scientists hope it could unlock secrets of the solar system's formation and shed light on the risk to Earth from asteroid impacts.

Nasa scientist Rod Ahrll, who monitored the return, said Hayabusa was significant in terms of planetary defense, bearing in mind that an asteroid impact a thought to have wiped out the dinosaurs.

Discussing the physical characteristics of near-Earth asteroids would be useful "in case we see something coming at us in the future," he said. At leftover manner from the building of the solar system, he added, asteroids would also tell us about ice formations and possibly the origins of life. Reuters

The WORLD

Criss Lorenne B. Gasco

Stunning mineral wealth in Afghanistan

KABUL—AFGHANISTAN HAS NEARLY ONE trillion dollars in mineral deposits, according to a US study, but there are doubts the war-torn and graft-prone country can manage the windfall offered by the untapped riches.

President Hamid Karzai said in January that the deposits could help the war-ravaged nation become one of the richest in the world, based on preliminary findings of the United States Geological Survey.

The final results, reported in the New York Times on Monday, found previously unknown reserves of lithium, iron, gold, niobium, cobalt and other minerals that the paper said could transform Afghanistan into a global mining hub.

"The natural resources of Afghanistan will play a magnificent role in Afghanistan's economic growth," Jawad Omar, spokesperson for the country's ministry of mines and industries, said.

"The past five decades show that every time new materials taken place, it shows our natural resources are far more than what we previously found," he said.

Afghanistan's potential lithium deposits are as large as those of Bolivia, which currently has the world's largest known reserves of the light-weight metal, the Times said.

There is ever-growing demand for lithium, which is used to make batteries for everything from mobile phones and cameras to iPods and laptops. Future growth in electric and hybrid cars could create even demand still.

Afghanistan has so much of the metal that it could become the "Saudi Arabia of lithium," according to an internal Pentagon memo quoted by the New York Times.

The iron and copper deposits are also large enough to make Afghanistan one of the world's top producers, US officials said.

"There is warming potential here," General David Petraeus, head of the US Central Command which oversees Afghanistan, told the newspaper. "There are a lot of ifs, of course, but I think potentially it is hugely significant." Little has been exploited because the country has been mired in conflict for three decades, and is today embroiled in a vicious insurgency by Islamic rebels led by the Taliban.

The country would have to find a way of bringing the minerals to markets but its infrastructure is rudimentary, with only one national highway connecting north to south and its ramshackle roads often ravaged by Taliban bombs.

Analysts worried the country, hobbled by rampant corruption and a weak central state, was not ready to manage its potential mineral wealth.

"I highly doubt it will be able to either properly manage these resources or use the dollars to build a more powerful and prosperous Afghanistan for all Afghans," Jawed Mostafa, a political analyst, said. AFP

AN AFGHAN refugee girl smiles for the camera on June 7. AFP

Death toll in Kyrgyz violence rises to 117

OSH, KYRGYZSTAN—Kyrgyzstan's interim government said on Monday it had arrested a "well-known person" on suspicion of fomenting the worst ethnic riots in 20 years, which have killed at least 117 and left scars in Osh.

The Interior Ministry in the Central Asian state, which hosts Russian and US military bases, said the situation in Osh and Jalalabad was "tense." A Reuters witness in Osh said gangs roamed shooting on Monday as residents and looters in one area of the city.

The interim government said authorities in Jalalabad had made an arrest. It did not disclose the person's identity but reported accusations from supporters of ex-President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who was overthrown in April, were behind the violence.

Bakiyev, in exile in Belarus, issued a statement from there on Sunday in which he denied claims he was behind the clashes.

But Rahmidin Rahedov, commandant in Jalalabad, said in televised comments: "This is nothing other than an attempt by Bakiyev's supporters and relatives to seize power." The ethnic violence between Kyrgyz and Uzbek residents began late on Thursday and continued over the weekend. Witnesses said gangs armed with automatic rifles, tear bars and machine-guns set fire to houses and shot fleeing residents.

Kyrgyzstan's interim government, which assumed power after the April revolt, has been unable to gain full control of the country's south, which is separated from the north by mountains.

It appealed to Russia during the weekend to send in troops.

The renewed turmoil in Kyrgyzstan has fuelled concern in Russia, the US and neighboring Central Asian countries over an air base in Manas in the south of the ex-Soviet state, almost 500 km (300 miles) from Osh, to supply forces in Afghanistan.

Russia has said it will not send in peacekeepers alone but will discuss the situation within a Moscow-led security bloc of former Soviet republics known as the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Kyrgyzstan's interim foreign ministry said the CSTO meeting would take place in Moscow today. AP

ANGUISH'S house burns after being torched by Kyrgyz men in Jalalabad, Kyrgyzstan, on June 12. AP

Colombia rescues police hostages held for 12 years

BOGOTA—COLOMBIAN SOLdiers rescued two senior police officers and a police sergeant from a jungle rebel camp being held hostage in the jungle for nearly 12 years, the country's defense minister announced.

A fourth police officer being held hostage escaped his captors during the military rescue operation and was personally hiking to Colombia's southern Amazon jungle, Defense Minister Gabriel Silva said on Sunday.

Armed Forces Commander Freddy Padilla said the three rescued were would arrive in Bogota on Monday.

"Operation Camaleon," the most important hostage rescue mission since French-Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt and three American were freed in 2008, was "flawless," Silva said.

The rescued hostages—Gen. Luis Arellado Mendoza, who on Sunday turned 53, Col. Enrique Murillo and Sgt. Aubey Delgado Argote—were still in the area of operations in southern Guaviare department, "well protected" by 300 soldiers, Silva said.

Ongoing fighting between the military and rebels with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas was preventing the rescued hostages from leaving the area, according to officials.

Padilla said an Army sergeant died during the mission, although not where the rescue took place. He gave no further details.

Officials identified the escaped hostage as police Col. William Donato.

"We have great hope he's holding out and that we'll be able to rescue him in the next few hours," said Silva.

FARC rebels captured Delgado and Donato in August 1998 in a raid on an anti-narcotics base in the Guaviare region. The guerrillas captured Mendoza and Murillo in November of that year in an attack on the remote southeastern border town of Mitu.

"I'm the happiest person in the world!" Delgado's wife, Gladys Duarte, told RCN radio after hearing the good news. AFP

Blood pressure pills could raise cancer risk, says study

LONDON—SOME OF THE world's most popular blood pressure pills may slightly increase your risk of getting cancer, but doctors say it's too soon to drink the drugs, according to new research.

In an analysis of five previous studies following about 60,000 patients, experts found a link between people taking medicines known as angiotensin-receptor blockers, or ARBs, and cancer. The drugs are taken by millions of people worldwide to treat high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetic kidney disease.

In the analysis, researchers found that people who took the drugs had about a 1 percent higher risk of getting cancer than people who weren't on the drugs. This included a whole range of cancers—prostate, breast and a noticeable spike in lung cancer.

Almost 80 percent of those people were on irbesartan, made by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. There was no difference in the rate of cancer deaths in people on the drugs compared to those not on them.

The study was published on Monday in the medical journal, "Lancet Oncology." Its finding was provided for the study, but like Ajmbi, the study's lead author, has received past payment from drugmakers. Pfizer Inc., AstraZeneca PLC and Merck & Pharmaceuticals Inc., which all make blood pressure drugs.

"The risk for the individual patient is modest," said Ajmbi, associate director of heart failure and transplantation at University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland. "However, when you look at it from the population level, millions and millions of people are on these drugs and they can cause a lot of excess cancer worldwide." AP

Indonesia young stars in sex-tape scandal could draw jail time

ON EXPLICIT CLIPS. Pop singer Nazril Irham, better known as Ariel, left, and his girlfriend, cop model and actress Luna Maya.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—INDONESIA grappled with their first-ever celebrity sex-tape scandal, casting aside social taboos as they examined several video computers and mobile phones to search clips allegedly showing a much-loved pop star with two girlfriends.

The story topped newsstands for a week and dominated chatter on social-networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. But just as controversial was the reaction of officials to the newly democratic nation.

Police threatened to charge the "stars" under a strict anti-pornography law, which could land them in jail for up to 10 years.

Several high schools were raided for mobile phones as the offending clips could be removed. And some ministers said the incident pointed, once again, to moral decay and the need for stricter controls of the Internet.

Indonesia, a secular nation with more Muslims than any other in the world, emerged from 32 years of dictatorship in 1998. It won praise for tackling the tough tasks of fighting corruption and terrorism, and implementing widely lauded social and economic reforms.

But it still faces challenges on the road to democratization, from the exploitation of grass-roots campaigning on the Web to old-style politicians, who speak to small constituencies or successful parties rather than the central government, said sociologist Wilma Wirache.

For some, the initial reaction still is to clamp down.

When the scandal spurred debate as to whether education alone sets—a subject still a taboo at home and in the classroom—should be added to the school curriculum, minister of education Mohammad Nuh responded with a flat "no."

"I may be clueless, but I don't see that sex education in schools is needed," he told reporters. "I believe people will learn about sex naturally."

Instead, he recommended that students search students' mobile phones for copies of the tapes, the rapid dissemination of which "violates the rules and cultural norms in a religious society."

"Whoever is responsible should be punished," Nuh said.

The first six-minute video clip appears to show pop singer Nazril Irham, better known as Ariel, in bed with his girlfriend Luna Maya, a cop model, actress and, up until the scandal, the face of an beauty soap.

The two deny it was them, saying the footage was doctored, but they were called in for questioning by police.

Brig. Gen. Iskandar Lubis, the deputy national police spokesperson, said on Monday the probe was ongoing.

If found guilty of violating a tough anti-pornography law, they could face up to 10 years in prison and a fine of $500,000 (USD756, 0000) even if there was no indication the intimate, but explicit, sex scenes were ever intended for public viewing.

Local media said the video started appearing in early June after Ariel's laptop was stolen and many similar tapes, with other celebrities, were still out there. AP

IN THIS ISSUE
■ DOE eyes 50 more renewable energy service contracts /B7

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

2 groups eye SMC packaging units

Ang sees sale of minority stake soon

By Dwain L. Lucas

SAN MIGUEL CORP MAY FAST-TRACK THE SALE of a significant minority stake in its packaging business after it received "strong interest" from potential buyers.

In an interview, San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang said that another foreign entity has now signified its intention to bid for a minority stake in San Miguel Packaging Specialties Inc. and San Miguel Packaging International Ltd.

"Our Japanese partners are very interested [in increasing their stakes]," he said, referring to Nihon Yamamura Glass Co. Ltd. "But all of a sudden, we received a very good offer from another foreign group which is also very attractive."

He did not indicate the value of both bids, although earlier reports pointed to a P100-million price tag for the additional 14-percent stake that Nihon Yamamura was contemplating to add to its existing 35-percent stake.

Ang earlier predicted that the sale could be completed "within the year", but now said that the desirable may have to be moved earlier given the buyers' interest.

"It looks like it will be done right away," he said. "Maybe we will be able to announce something soon."

Nihon Yamamura bought a 35-percent stake in San Miguel's packaging business three years ago. Both firms are also joint venture partners in San Miguel Yamamura Asia Corp., the country's biggest glass plant, in San Miguel, Bulacan, and Yamamura Glass Philippines Corp., which operates a glass manufacturing plant in Cavite.

The planned sale is in line with the publicly listed con

A SECTOR, B7

Economic indicators index gains in 2nd quarter

By Ramon F. Dominguez

THE COMPOSITE LEADING economic indicators (LEI) in April have showed the "second-biggest improvement" compared to the previous quarter since 1998, the National Statistical Coordination Board said.

Based on NSCB documents, the decline in the composite LEI (composed of 11 indices including long inflation) continued to abate in the second quarter to -0.348 point from a revised -0.533 in the first quarter.

"This marks the second steepest ascent of the composite LEI since the third quarter of 1998, with the first one occurring in the first quarter of 2006," said Romulo A. Virola, NSCB secretary general.

The composite LEI relates to 11 components—coincidental indicators, consumer price index, wholesale price index, tourist arrivals, stock price index, electric energy consumption, hotel occupancy rate, money supply, number of new businesses, terms of trade index, and foreign exchange rate.

Virola said four of the 11 indices, the first eight in the list mentioned positively to the composite LEI.

Compared to the previous quarter, this was one less positive oscillations, with the number of new business incorporations moving negative.

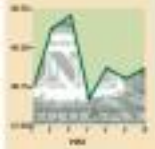
But Virola said that the share of the eight positive contributors accounted for 99.9 percent of the composite LEI compared to the 83 percent share of the nine in the first quarter.

The top positive contributor was total merchandise imports, which improved 20.4 percent in

ECONOMY, B7

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
June 11, 2013
46.64



STOCK MARKET
June 11, 2013
▲ 40.95

Bright outlook seen for RP equities

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET would likely be able to build a solid base for a more sustained uptrend in the coming months after the country's economic fundamentals showed reasonable strength in the first quarter of 2013.

At the same time, investors, the incoming administration of President-elect Benigno Aquino III has much work to do if it is to capitalize on the economic gains of the previous months, according to Alakor Securities Corp.

In a statement made to the clients, the brokerage firm cheered the latest consumption numbers, which were the biggest driver of first-quarter growth.

"Government consumption as

MARKET, B7

PSALM eyes $1-B bond float

Proceeds to settle Napocor debts

By Arny R. Ronda

Semiconductor spending rises

Global demand heating up

By Abigail L. Ho

SEMICONDUCTOR CAPITAL equipment spending worldwide is seen to rise more than doubling this year to $35.4 billion, as demand for semiconductors and electronics starts to heat up.

According to research firm Gartner, last year's capital equipment spending was a dismal $16.6 billion, dragged down by the global recession's significant adverse impact on the semiconductor industry.

The expected strong growth, however, should taper off to-ward the start of 2011, Gartner managing vice president Klaus Rinnen said.

"We could see a slight slowing in orders in 2010 ends, and the industry focuses on macroeconomic conditions. We expect capital equipment growth to continue through 2011, but at a reduced rate, as spending responds to slower growth in the semiconductor markets," Rinnen said in a statement posted on the Gartner website.

According to the research firm, growth in 2011 would be limited to just around 6.6 percent.

This year's very strong growth could be attributed to last year's heavily depressed numbers, giving the semiconductor capital equipment industry a very small base from which to start.

"For 2010, the semiconductor equipment industry will experience exceptionally strong growth, as we emerge from a very costly and deep recession," he said.

"Given this exceptional growth, there is a possibility that the honeymoon could end in 2011, which may help to mitigate the boom/bust cyclicality typical of previous cycles. However, if capacity expansion continues unchecked, a more severe and protracted down cycle could occur in 2011," he added.

Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. chair Arthur Young said that even if local semiconductor and electronics firms wanted to accelerate their production ramp-ups, this was nearly impossible as demand for new equipment was enormously high.

"That meant that equipment orders that usually took around two months to deliver would now take two to three times longer, he said.

Those wanting to expand their production, he said, would just have to rely on existing capacities.

For this year, Seipi expected exports to grow more than 20 percent, up from the 15-20 percent that it had earlier projected.

Industry investments, mostly reinvestments in existing facilities, were likewise seen hitting at least $1 billion this year.

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10-yr T-bond yield seen at 8% in Q3

By Reuters/W. Domingo

THE YIELD ON THE BENCHmark 10-year treasury bonds is seen to stay at about 8 percent in the third quarter following a strong economic growth momentum in the first quarter, according to ING Bank.

"While bonds generally don't like strong growth, the strong economic growth momentum in this juncture is not all bad news for the Philippines' local currency government bonds," the Singapore-based bank said in its latest quarterly report on Asia.

The National Statistical Coordination Board reported last month that the country's gross domestic product...the total value of output in products and services...in the first quarter grew by 12 percent year-on-year.

"If GDP growth [remains] strong, revenue collection is likely to be strong enough to prevent the year's budget deficit from reaching the projected P250 billion, taking the pressure off the bond market," the bank said.

ING said the government remained comfortable with its funding prospects, especially since it had already raised P150 billion through the sale of $1.5 billion in dollar bonds in January and 100 billion yen in February.

But "developments in Europe warrant attention as they serve as a warning against complacency with major fiscal challenges," ING said.

Market numbers are focusing on the debt problems in Europe, particularly Greece, with worries that a default may trigger yet another financial crisis that would be felt across the world.

In an earlier report, ING said unchanged policy rates were expected to boost the Philippine bond market with no significant increases in yields for the rest of June.

In the more recent case arising meeting of the Monetary Board last week, the Manila-based Philippine policy-making body kept the borrowing and lending rates at 4 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

DOE eyes 50 more renewable energy service contracts

16 firms apply for 43 wind projects

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS DEALing about 30 more applications for renewable-energy service contracts.

Energy Undersec. Silvestre Mario Montaclaro said the processing of these proposals was taking some time because these were the "more difficult projects."

Data from the DOE showed there were 43 pending wind energy contract applications from 16 companies, including Lopez-led Energy Development Corp., EE Power Ltd. Co., Northwind Power Development Corp., PhilCarbon Inc., Philippine Hybrid Energy Systems Inc., Hyansu Yes Corp., Bonanza Water and Electric Co. Inc. and Trivent Clean Energy.

Other companies awaiting approval of their wind service contracts include Alternergy Philippine Holdings Corp., Aseagas Energy Corp., MAC Mining and Exploration Corp., Emerwind Philippines, Cavabello Mountains EPC Asia Corp., Cemcoal Energy Corp., Coastal Power Development Corp. and Energy Logos Philippines Inc.

About 30 of the 43 proposed wind power projects are expected to penetrate a combined 1,000 megawatts in additional capacity to the country's three main grids.

The DOE is also studying the pending application of Lopez subsidiary Green Core Geothermal Inc. for geothermal service contracts for the Palinpinan and Tongonan facilities in Negros Oriental and Leyte, respectively.

It is likewise reviewing the applications of Phil Pacific Power Corp. for a prospective geothermal site in Alto Peak Energy Corp. (Puerto Princesa, Palawan) and SBI Construction Group Inc. (Batangas and Quezon).

Also under legal evaluation are the applications of Scid and Gas Co. Inc. for two geothermal areas in Leyte del Norte and South Cotabato.

The DOE also disclosed that it was negotiating with EDC, the country's largest producer of geothermal products, for the approval of four prospective geothermal areas in Misamis Occidental, Negros Occidental, North Cotabato and Davao del Sur.

Government documents also showed that Chevron Geothermal Philippines Holdings Inc. (CGPHI) had two applications for contracts with Pinamucal or Technical Assistance Agreement (TAA) provisions for the 200-megawatt geothermal facility in Tiwi, Albay and the 458.5/5-MW power plant in Mak-Ban spanning Laguna and Quezon.

Phi Pacific Power Corp. (PPPC) has a similar application for its proposed 40-MW geothermal power project in Cagua-Rizal in Cagayan. This was one of the pre-identified areas that were offered for bidding by the DOE late last year.

Japan business seeking long-term forecast on power demand, prices

By Abigail L. Ho

BEFORE PUSHING THEIR MILLIONS OF dollars into the country, Japanese businessmen are asking the Philippine government to come up with long-term forecasts on power prices and demand.

Trade Senior Undersecretary Thomas Aquino said the Japanese firms wanted such information to enable them to gauge if it would be viable enough for them to do business here or expand existing operations.

"They want to see if it's attractive enough to invest in the Philippine power sector. They want to see if there's enough Power demand for new plants and if the pricing is viable enough," he said.

The Department of Energy is in the process of updating the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) for 2009-2030, which will show supply and demand forecasts for various energy sources in the next 20 years.

The plan considers the option of putting up a nuclear power facility to help augment power supply in the country.

The DOE held the last leg of its consultations with industry stakeholders for the 2009-2030 PEP on April 28 in Makati City.

It will be gathering and processing all inputs and recommendations made during the nationwide consultations as it synthesizes the PEP.

The set of long-term planning was exactly what Japanese companies wanted, Aquino said.

2 groups eye SMC . . .

From page B1

ghouse can't move to sell as much as 49 percent of its holdings in its core businesses like food, beer and packaging. The company uses the liquidity it gains to acquire other firms in high-growth areas like infrastructure and energy.

The San Miguel chief also disclosed that he would seal as many as 10 major deals over the next year that would further improve investors' returns in the conglomerate.

This includes a planned 60 percent stake acquisition in an unspecified energy company which he only described as "regional" in scale.

"This company will have very good cash flow and can be leveraged on Petron," he added.

Bright outlook . . .

From page B1

panditure usually plays the dominant role during the first half of an election year, with election-spending contributing the bulk of the economy's output," it said. "The year's first quarter GDP figure does not disappoint on this end, growing by double digit at 10.1 percent compared to the same period in 2009."

It said recovering consumption was a "welcome development" as government spending should decline in the coming quarters.

"With the absence of election spending, and as the deficit-to-GDP ratio has neared historical highs, government fiscal economic stimuli may no longer be sustainable over the long term," it said.

Meanwhile, personal consumption expenditure returned to pre-crisis growth levels, having been boosted still by the continued growth in remittances and supported by replacement generation during the quarter, Abacus added.

Dimitri L. Lucas

Economic indicators index . . .

From page B1

the first two months of 2010, estimated at $8.19 billion from $6.33 billion in the same period of 2009.

The country's imports continued to improve after 11 consecutive months of a slump that ended only in November 2009.

On the other hand, the top exports continue was the number of new businesses, which have registered, "the bank said.

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NLDC earmarks ₱1.5B for microfinancing in '10

By Aurora W. Domingo

Agency insists it does not receive subsidy from gov't

STATE-RUN NATIONAL LIVELIHOOD Development Corp. plans to lend out ₱1.5 billion to small businesses this year—7 percent higher than the ₱1.4 billion disbursed in 2009.

NLDC officials clarified that the resources set aside for microfinancing programs would be tapped from internal funds.

It will not include funds from Congress that are released through NLDC, officials stressed.

According to NLDC president Geraldina G. Antazo, the agency wants to be stricken from the list of agencies senators and district representatives use to channel pork barrel funds in financing projects.

Antazo said being a conduit for poverty development assistance funds (PDAF) worth hundreds of millions of pesos would make NLDC a target for the proposed nationalization, privatization or abolition of entities expected to be highly dependent on government subsidies.

The government corporation does not actually receive money from the government—it does not have a share in the national budget or any allocation from Malacañang, Antazo said.

According to data from the Bureau of the Treasury, the NLDC was one of the top recipients of subsidies from January to April, getting a total of ₱799 million.

But Antazo said that what appeared on the DBM report was actually PDAF funds from Congress, which NLDC administered on behalf of lawmakers.

"It is critical that we clarify (this) because we do not want our microfinance clients to get the wrong notion," she said.

Borrowers tend to be untruthful of the need to pay their debt when they believe that the money comes from government, Antazo explained.

NLDC has been operating using its own earnings and internal funds since 1980, said Teri Paparito, Antazo's chief of staff.

"The NLDC is a self-sustaining institution [with] earnings generated from its livelihood credit programs and investments, Paparito said, explaining that the income covers operational costs and provision of services.

As of end-2009, NLDC's fund portfolio stood at around ₱4.1 billion, while total assets were reported to be ₱5.16 billion.

OFW households seen to save less, spend more

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE NUMBER OF FILIPINO HOUSEholds that saved a portion of the remittances they received from migrant family members declined in April, according to the latest survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Results of the Consumer Expectations Survey showed that out of 540 households receiving money from abroad, only 28 percent said they had set aside a portion of the remittances for savings.

This was sharply lower than the 38.4 percent registered during the previous survey conducted in January, and slightly down from 30.1 percent recorded the previous year.

According to central bank officials, the drop in the number of households that had set aside cash for savings could signal an even faster rise in consumption in the second quarter, which would support healthy growth of the economy. Money not saved may be used for consumption or investment, they explained.

Rising consumption has its advantages, as demand for goods and services helps increase economic activity, they explained.

But Filipino households are still being encouraged to save a portion of the remittances they get to secure their future, central bank officials said. Savings, especially deposits in banks, form part of funds that are lent out to support investment initiatives.

Meanwhile, the number of OFW households that had earmarked a portion of remittances for investments also dropped near-on-year.

Survey showed that out of the 540 respondent households nationwide, 7.2 percent said they saved a portion of remittances for investments. This was lower than the 9.3 percent recorded in the April 2009 survey, but up from 5.6 percent in the January 2010 survey.

Officials said more Filipinos used portions of their money to save and invest last year, when the global economic turmoil reached its peak. The crisis prompted people to be mindful of their security by saving and investing, and consuming less, they added.

The decline this year in the number of remittance-dependent households that save and invest is considered with optimism as the global economic conditions on the global economy receives fresh boosters.

Property firm lashes out at derelict clients

By Dianne L. Gutan

A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER IS SOUNDING the alarm over what it believes is a growing trend of delinquent buyers resorting to "harassment suits" to discontinue contracts.

"The entire real estate industry is in danger from these unscrupulous individuals," Novohed Philippines Inc. (NPI) president Ely Martinez said in a statement, as he urged government officials to disallow in-case-shopping.

Martinez pointed out that in a number of jury cases, the Supreme Court held that it is the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) which has jurisdiction over complaints arising from contracts between a developer and a lot buyer or those aimed at compelling the developer to comply with its contractual and statutory obligations.

"There must be an end to litigation somewhere," Martinez said. "We cannot allow persons to make a mockery of our justice system by maliciously pursuing their cases where they please once they lose before the HLURB."

"These baseless harassment suits unduly put a strain on the financial resources of all developers and put to danger the contractual obligation of the developer to the legitimate buyers," he added.

Martinez revealed that many real estate developers were now fearing from the expenditure of indefinitely using the legal system and media to "harass" legitimate developers.

"With the industry hit by the economic crisis, no huge the looming Aquino administration can also look into this problem which affects real estate developers in their bid to provide Filipinos their dream house," Martinez said.

Citing cases that reached the Supreme Court, the Novohed chief noted that the high court affirmed the decision that the HLURB has the unique expertise in determine problems facing developers and buyers.

Factory gate prices fell sharply in April

FACTORY GATE PRICES FELL BY 4.6 PERcent in April—the lowest drop in 12 straight months of decline.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that the sharp decline in prices was partly due to double-digit drops in furniture and fixtures (40.5 percent), non-electrical machinery (22.3 percent) and electrical machinery (13.8 percent).

Results from the NSO's monthly survey of factory gate prices—covering 16 selected groups of manufactured goods included in the producers price index (PPI)—showed that nine of the groups inflated rose in annual but 13 of them gained.

Making by major points were prices of miscellaneous manufactures, fabricated metal products, non-metallic minerals, transport equipment, paper and paper products, and textiles.

On the other hand, double-digit gains were observed in petroleum products (29.0 percent) and furniture and wearing apparel (90.2 percent).

Other gainers were food, basic metals, chemicals, tobacco, leather, publishing and printing, rubber and plastic products, wood and wood products and beverages.

On a month-on-month basis, the PPI also continued to slide for the fifth month at a rate at 2.7 percent. Seven sectors reported price decreases, with non-electrical machinery shedding the most at 14.1 percent.

Other price losers were electrical machinery, basic metals, footwear and wearing apparel, non-metallic minerals, transport equipment, miscellaneous manufactures, and rubber and plastic products.

Three were seven gainers led by paper products, price of which rose 2.5 percent on the month. Other gainers were petroleum products, food, furniture and fixtures, leather, chemicals, and textiles.

Aurora W. Domingo

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How yoga helps Marilen Elizalde and Evelyn Lim Forbes achieve focus and peace

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By Marge C. Enriquez
Contributor

CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR MA. Elena Elizalde, Marilen to friends, isn't into yoga for the winks. As an advanced yogi, she works on breathing technique and focus, shore mind power eventually helps the transition to meditation, the ultimate goal of yoga. Friends have noticed that she's calmer in responding to situations.

"I was a gym rat, doing lots of weights. I was in aerobics queen. Now, still do it yoga," says Elizalde who wakes up before dawn to practice two hours of pranayama or yogi breathing, asanas and meditation.

At Echo Yoga Community Center, she teaches Level 3 ashtanga which emphasizes core stabilization. The core is made of many muscles that support the spine, pelvis and torso, including the shoulders and lower thighs. They enable a strong foundation for movement and transfer of weight. The idea of core stability is to keep the entire torso in one solid piece even as weight or energy is transferred from the center of the body out to the limbs.

"In Sanskrit, it is called bandhas...inner lock and avoid lock (contraction of the abdominal muscles). Our teachers, (the late) Krishna Pattabhi Jois once said no bandhas, no pose. If you focus on just core muscles (stabilizing the abdomen, inner lock, barandha and thighs), you will get to the pose. If not sensitive, then eventually I couldn't do some poses seven years ago. I never thought I could drop back from a standing pose to do a backbend. I'm 44, and I'm more flexible now than when I was in my 20s," says Elizalde.

Businesswoman Evelyn Lim Forbes, an avid student, adds, "Core strength is where the power is. It's equivalent to the chi. When you hit that point which you know you are exercising correctly, using your core, it feels very powerful."

How they stay fit

Arm balances

In the uninitiated, ashtanga yoga is a choreography of fast-paced exercises that involve sustained but controlled breathing while holding varying postures. Unlike some other forms of yoga, Ashtanga is meant to induce profuse sweating, which according to Jois, its founder, is important to release toxins.

Undoubtedly, many are attracted to the physical aspect of yoga. Want a toned body? "You go to the gym for that," maintains Elizalde.

Others like to take up the challenge of handstands and headstands...but not without the basics. Class begins with pranayama for focus and to check if the breathing is deep or shallow. After the Sun Salutation warm up, there are basic exercises that gradually build strength and flexibility that prepare them for the advanced poses. Students learn to balance on a plank position or side plank on one leg and in reverse poses in the Bear Pose, the equivalent of the Tower in Vibora, the body is draped like a V as it balances on its tailbone while the legs are pointing toward the ceiling. It's excellent for the abdomen, hip flexors and the spine. Advanced students do exercises to build the arm strength for the Crow Pose wherein you crouch on the body on a ball and take the feet off the floor and stand on your hands. The Firefly Pose is a variation wherein you balance on your hands coming from a wide squat position.

"When you are doing arm balances, you need to engage the core to lift up your whole body and legs for balance. You carry your own weight," says Elizalde. "I teach the students to keep their hands flat on the ground and use them as they would use their feet." She cites a 62-year-old student who can do the Crow Pose.

Initially, some bodybuilders and middleweights could not do the arm balances. "Their muscles tended to shorten. Yoga

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FOR MARILEN Elizalde, natural acuity eventually facilitates the transition into meditation, the goal of yoga.

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How yoga helps Marilen Elizalde and Evelyn Lim Forbes . . .

From page C1

long bows the muscles and the spine and opens up the chest," says Elizalde.

However, she underscores that classes in Echo Yoga aim to make the joint and muscle friendly to the elderly or chunkiest or oldest student. "When people hear 'yoga,' they get intimidated because they're not lean or flexible. We want to make yoga accessible," she says.

"The Led Ashtanga is for older students who want to take yoga a notch higher. Echo Yoga caters to beginners who don't know what yoga is. They don't even know to breathe. We have yoga classes for people who are overweight and for people who are not flexible," says Elizalde. The poses are modified according to the build and capacity of the student without sacrificing their objectives. There are restorative classes for stressed out souls and yoga for senior citizens.

In keeping the yoga tradition, there are no mirrors in the studio so they don't get self-conscious.

Ultimate goal

For 33 years, Forbes has been trying to find the perfect teacher for yoga. She has struck a chord with Elizalde. "Marilen doesn't use the strong manner. They do not develop the muscles but more for endurance. The core work is fundamental. It helps you to flow through a series of sensations," she says.

"What she corrects is the stiffness of the students. The teacher are sensitive to the level of the student. In later classes you have to keep up. Here it's almost tailor-made. If the body you can't do the pose, it is modified. It is very important that, as a student, you feel the teacher is paying attention to your body."

"Practice, focus and concentrate. It's my yoga practice, you need to practice every day. I practice five or six times a week. You need to concentrate on your mind and breath. If you can't do the pose, accept. Tomorrow is another day. As a teacher, life is a continuous learning process."

Forbes enjoys the fact that yoga is suave, joint friendly and low impact. "It's a cross between ballet and aerobics. It's like meditation in movements. You can't do it without being focused. I've noticed the significant difference between yoga and other forms of exercise. It's not the body doing. When my energy level is low, yoga changes my chi. You can get centered very quickly." This is one of the reasons why this businesswoman looks younger than 50.

Marilen rejoins, "Evelyn lends a hectic life. In many ways, yoga has grounded her."

"There is so much happening outside that you need something," says Forbes as she slaps her cheek to signify a wake-up call. "It clears you can't think of anything else [but the exercise]. If not, you can hurt yourself."

Forbes adds that poses have made her aware of her alignment and placement. "You realize that sometimes we don't use our body properly. Yoga is like getting yourself a miracle like a massage."

The flexibility and the strengthening conversions and inversion postures are just the icing on the cake. Elizalde says the ultimate goal of yoga is to uniting to one's original nature of peace.

Inge Elizalde, "Yoga opened my eyes. What we are doing now—outside of who we are—is not as important. What's important is to know who you are, to accept who you are, to appreciate who you are, and try to be the best person to your family and to the people you work with. The asana-yoga practice on the mat is just a practice. The teachings impart how you should treat other people and how you react to people who are not as nice to you."

Echo Community Center is at Bonifacio Center Plaza, 150 Perez St., Makati City. Call 0906-3053966.

How to attain balance with yoga

By Rina Ortiz
Contributor

DO NOT BE SURPRISED if you were to receive different answers to the question, "What is yoga?" Even with regular practitioners, the answer may be varied, even unrelated. Yoga is a series of postures, yoga is meditating, yoga is feminism, yoga is breathing.

It reminds of the story about those six blind men feeling different parts of an elephant: Jorgen to preserve and describe according to what level they're just, they are holding. The legs, the elephant is like a tree, the limb, it is a weapon, and so on. Each description seems but unfortunately incomplete. So is the case of yoga. There are millions of practitioners who would cover but the clarity of what yoga is and its ultimate aim is possibly known to a few. I may not be one of those few but I will make an attempt.

Let us first begin with its roots. Ancient sages were sure that at the beginning of civilization, Lord Shiva taught yoga to his wife Parvati. Having a closet look at those scriptures, yoga is defined as the uniting of the individual or drishad consciousness with the universal consciousness. Its aim is Moksha, freedom from the cycles of birth and death, where the individual soul merges with the cosmic soul.

The Bhagavad Gita is replete with references to yoga, defines it as (communion yoga sadiyate) yoga is equanimity. Lord Krishna then states that [equal-minded] skillfulness in action is the means of attaining yoga.

The great sage Patanjali defines it as yoga citta vrtti nirodaha. Yoga is the restriction of fluctuations of the consciousness. Later text (yog yagas swadhyayaya ishwara pranidhanani kriyayoga, to wear coal, self-study, practice and surrender to God is) is yoga.

Many definitions

So even as far back as 2,500 years ago there were many definitions. Without further study, it would be difficult to construct the dots.

On the one hand, the Bhagavad Gita states that yoga is equanimity. What is equanimity? Not to be moved by thoughts, emotions, acts and deeds? How can one attain equanimity? Like everything in life, skill is needed. Skill however can only be developed through repeated effort. The skill of selfstudy (swadhyaya), for example. Whether it is the study of your physical, mental, psychological and spiritual self.

On the other hand, Patanjali's "yoga is the cessation of the fluctuations of the consciousness" defines and enhances the prescribed idea of equanimity. We all know what unconsciousness is but are we certain are we understand conscious? In Sanskrit, consciousness is made up of three components: mind, intelligence and ego. When there is a state of equanimity between the mind, intelligence and the ego, stability is at its peak. Therefore permitting a union to take place.

Yoga's aim is union. Its objective is equanimity and its means of attaining it is to do Patanjali's eight yoga/practices or aspects of yoga 1) Yama (social disciplines); 2) Niyama (personal disciplines); 3) Asanas (holding of the body into various positions to be able to channel the flow of energy); 4) Pranayama (regulation of prana—life force); 5) Pratyahara (withdrawal of senses of perception); 6) Dharana (concentration); 7) Dhyana (meditation); 8) Samadhi (ultimate state of bliss). These steps do not work independently. Each step supports the next in preparing the soul toward its ultimate aim, Moksha.

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balance.

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DHEA—is the mother hormone of the body. It is made in the brain and adrenal cortex. It also affects all hormones and controls cortisol levels and stimulates pleasure, depression and body fat, growth against Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. But taking a DHEA pill isn't enough; you need to stimulate the symphony of hormones your body needs. Thus, no two men or women will require the same workout of hormone levels.

MELATONIN—The sleep hormone which tells you to yawn. It creates your day/night rhythm, relieves stress and lowers blood pressure.

HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE (HGH)—Released by the pituitary gland during deep stages of sleep (so, if you are sleepless most times, your HGH levels must be low). Low levels also that sometimes we don't use our body properly. Yoga is like getting yourself a miracle like a massage."

The flexibility and the strengthening conversions and inversion postures are just the icing on the cake. Elizalde says the ultimate goal of yoga is to uniting to one's original nature of peace.

Inge Elizalde, "Yoga opened my eyes. What we are doing now—outside of who we are—is not as important. What's important is to know who you are,

LANI IS IN HER 30S, MARRIED to the same man for 10 years. But today the partners of a bride for her groom has been replaced by husband's boss. When once she called him "hon," today he is just "Espie." Was it the daily routine of marriage or could it be something more basic and biological? When Lani took a hormone profile exam given by Dr. Quincy Suay of the Philippine Institute of Longevity Medicine, the results showed her levels of cortisol, progesterone and estrogen were dramatically low. In short, her sexual libido and energy levels were practically zero. Even if she was thin, Lani was diagnosed as hypothyroid. No wonder she had mood swings and slimming hair.

Quincy explains: "When once you felt like a 60-year-old, now you can recapture the vibrance of your 30s or 40s."

Breakthrough findings

Suzanne Somers guides us through in "Breakthrough," a New York Times bestseller:

ESTROGEN—the female hormone (made in the ovaries) (though men have it, too). In women, estrogen is high but testosterone is low. In men, it's the opposite. Estrogen is so powerful, it affects the brain, heart, skin, bones, blood vessels, urinary tract. Low estrogen leads to a lack of desire for sex, bladder infections, hot flashes sweating, weight gain.

PROGESTERONE—A female hormone (made in the ovaries) is made by adrenal glands and ovaries. This balances estrogen (and in turn is vital). If you have high LDL (bodies, scrub-blood sugar, memory loss, bone body fats, unable to sleep, it's because there is an imbalance between estrogen and progesterone.

TESTOSTERONE—The male hormone. When there is an imbalance, men lose muscle definition, experience overtly dysfunction, are constantly irritable and begin to look old. Women with very low levels experience loss of bone and muscle density. A healthy level of this hormone raises HDL levels.

PREGNENOLONE—The memory hormone which also speeds healing. Interesting, the lower the sex hormones, the more damage to body tissues, especially when you are under stress.

DHEA—is the mother hormone of the body. It is made in the brain and adrenal cortex. It also affects all hormones and controls cortisol levels and stimulates pleasure, depression and body fat, growth against Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. But taking a DHEA pill isn't enough; you need to stimulate the symphony of hormones your body needs. Thus, no two men or women will require the same workout of hormone levels.

MELATONIN—The sleep hormone which tells you to yawn. It creates your day/night rhythm, relieves stress and lowers blood pressure.

HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE (HGH)—Released by the pituitary gland during deep stages of sleep (so, if you are sleepless most times, your HGH levels must be low). Low levels are visible through wrinkles, poor hair, body fat. But it can also affect your blood capacity.

WG: TOO MUCH HORMONES—Take your thyroid very seriously. If your hormone has been high or low for a long time, you are definitely at risk of death. Situated just below your Adam's apple is the thyroid gland. It is responsible for your metabolism. "Before" low metabolism, the body's cortisol controls the speed and efficiency of every cell. Did you know that increase sensitivity to cold or heat can be attributed to your imbalanced thyroid? That's because it maintains the body temperature. Symptoms include fatigue, dry skin, constipation, hair loss, osteoporosis, muscle pain, chronic anxiety and heart problems.

ADRENALS—Rage, depression, insomnia are results of low adrenals. Mega doses of vitamin C (2,000-3,000 mg) can boost it because the highest concentration of C is found in the adrenals. Overworking, stressing the body are major causes of this malfunctioning hormone.

PORTIES—May be called the stress hormone but it also manages your stress. If your adrenals don't function, your cortisol is also down. Low cortisol equals chronic allergies, asthma and pain. A Type pre sensitives who thrive on stress have high levels. But those are the types who suddenly turn heart attack in the middle of a tennis game or marathon. Cortisol fights certain cancers like leukemia and lymphoma.

INSULIN—Released by the pancreas, it can make or break you when it comes to diabetes. Low levels could be due to malnutrition while high levels are due to smoking tobacco, stress, yo-yo dieting, drinking alcohol, sugar cravings. Without insulin, you cannot convert food into energy.

BIO-IDENTICAL HORMONE-REPLACEMENT THERAPY—Dr. Tiffany Heroghe, famous worldwide as the father of BHRT and president of the International Hormone Society, says that when a person undergoes bio-identical hormone replacement, he/she is not like one change dramatically. BHRT is natural as opposed to synthetic hormones which, according to Heroghe, "differ by an atom or two" from what the body makes. Natural hormones are chosen as close as possible to what the body makes for itself. Also, stem cells are the latest breakthrough in medicine which has regenerative properties and benefits which can improve one's health. BHRT creators are not-for-profit doctors who do not receive money from Big Pharma. Prepared by Quincy, it includes monthly testosterone injections, progesterone cream massaged lightly on the neck or bedtime, cortisol and thyroid pills daily and occasional oil estrogens like red yeast.

Lani's lifestyle has changed from unfit to fit by doing daily exercise, eating vegetables and fruits and seaweed. Today, she is as energetic as her 30s to 40s year! Her husband has given them his jogging. Her only regret is why she didn't start on her BHRT sooner. But then again, it's never too late. Every week, she and her husband have Friday date night-outs.

Affirmations: "Life begins again when I say so!"

Love and light!

Asian Institute of Longevity Medicine...4917 8999/8861, 843-2450

From page C4

love that the more you are, the less you know. There's so much yet to be learned. It's a joy to see students evolve into dancers, and even step-ups I've taught become their own."

Call Gerry's Flamenco Manila, tel. 733-2242; or visit the studio, 5-9 SIS Bldg., Aldeguer cor. Gen. Malvar St., Makati. Visit www.centroflamencogerli.com.

POLO Tri's Fred Uytengsu and Oakley's Ramesh Dargani

TOMMEN Runner-cyclist-pro Christopher Ahern

TOMMEN reigning Olympian Gay Concepcion

Oakley sponsors Polo Tri in triathlon competition in August

OAKLEY SPONSORS POLO TRI, the Philippines' first and largest triathlon team, in the Ironman Cozumel (IMCozumel) triathlon competition scheduled in August.

The members will all sport Oakley eyewear in team colors in the latest styles like Jawbone, Fuel and Radar.

"Oakley only affiliates itself with the best. Polo Tri is the best in and out of the sport and we support them with the best products we can offer," says Oakley's president Ramesh Dargani.

Dargani refers to Polo Tri's impressive showing at local and international events, a standout 18 years ago by Fred Uytengsu, Jared Chelton and Dane Brown. Polo Tri was a pioneer in triathlon. The group updates its members with clinics run by Lifesport, the leading triathlon coaching company in the world. Oakley's roster of choice also has a sizable of in-house athletes like swimming champ Eric Concepcion and ex-European professional cyclist Kris Allaire. Another member, Isaac Aiwuyo, currently holds the record for the fastest Full Ironman with a clocktime of 10 hours and 13 minutes.

IMCozumel '09 produces finishers include Noy Jugnio, Amanda Carpo, Dana Dargue and Rita Lucena. More than half the seats ever have winners or have day jobs, while a handful happen to be captains of industries like Fernando Zobel, Larry Gonzalez, David Chavchavadze, Albert Alcaraz, Emile Lagrew and Fred Uytengsu. Administering multimillion-peso businesses while spending quality time with their families is an uneasy feat.

Oakley offers eye protection which uses Plutonite, a proprietary synthetic material that smacks of rocket science. Its products have had memorable cameos in blockbuster movies like "Eraser," "Mission: Impossible" 2, "Blade" 2 and "O, Jose Rizal" of the Lifetime Pinoy. Higher than most eyewear close to its optical axis, the lens gives its wearer the best vision possible based on the optical axis the eyewear undergoes for clarity, refractive power and prism. The rays show how HDO® makes one's vision clearer and sharper, virtually eliminating the problems of ordinary lenses. Wearers no longer have to worry about distortion that magnifies the perceptual issues and, in some cases, breaks light on objects aren't really where one sees them. This can be dangerous in high-speed situations, like when one is on a bike careening down a hill at 50-60 kph. The patent also encompasses Oakley's innovations such as Photo Chromic (light-adaptive) technology, Hydrophobic (water- and oil-repellent) and standard eyewear basics such as nonmodified impact resistance (ANSI Z87.1—high-mass/high-velocity tests) and the three-point fit. After road-testing the team's eyewear, founding member and president and CEO of Alain Mikli Corporation Fred Uytengsu had this to say about why he likes Oakley: "Lens clarity for obvious reasons. Frame durability and, aside from gear optics in the lenses they provide, they fit well, and as a bonus, they look great."

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SEMINARS

June 16, 2010 (Wednesday) (In-hall, Seminar Area)
1:00 - 2:00 PM Food Styling
2:30 - 3:30 PM Corporate Image Enhancement
4:00 - 5:00 PM Rules and Mechanics - What to Join then

June 17, 2010 (Thursday) (In-hall, Seminar Area)
1:00 - 2:00 PM Pouring 101
2:30 - 3:30 PM Beverage Controlling your Food Costs
4:00 - 5:00 PM Catering

(Seminar Room 3, Lobby)
1:00 - 2:00 PM Fish Hammer Meat Tenderizing Salt Product Demo
3:00 - 4:00 PM Quick Chill Refrigerant Technology Demo

June 18, 2010 (Friday) (In-hall, Seminar Area)
12:00 - 1:00 PM Margarita, Mamasita, Magaling
Improvement of Having Positive Entrepreneurial Mindset
1:30 - 2:30 PM Negotiating Skills as Negotiating Ways
Spotting Business Opportunities and Developing Innovative Products
2:30 - 3:30 PM Pagbebenta ng Produkto (Isang Kumite)
Marketing Your Business
3:30 - 4:30 PM Pagtatasa ng Pera sa Pinitunan, Pag-ipon, Pag-likid, Pag-utang
Funding Your Business and Managing Your Finance

(Seminar Room 3, Lobby)
1:30 - 2:30 PM Pointrac
2:30 - 4:00 PM Marketing 101 - Creating Product Differentiation
4:30 - 5:30 PM Wholesal Franchising and Trademark your Business

June 19, 2010 (Saturday)
1:00 - 2:00 PM Cooking for the VIPs
2:30 - 3:30 PM Bartending Bar 101
4:30 - 5:00 PM Recent Advances in Food Preservation

COMPETITION

June 16, 2010 (Wednesday)
11:30 - 12:00 NN Opening Ceremonies
12:00 - 2:00 PM Best Cheesecake Competition (Intermediate)
12:00 - 3:00 PM Table Set-up (SHRM & Interactive)
2:00 - 5:00 PM Restaurant Marketing (SHRM)
5:00 - 7:00 PM Mocktail Punch Competition (SHRM)

June 17, 2010 (Thursday)
10:00 - 1:00 PM Cake Decorating Competition (SHRM & Interactive)
1:00 - 4:00 PM Pasta Live Cookery (Intermediate)
4:00 - 6:00 PM Ice Carving Competition (Professional)
6:30 - 7:30 PM Best Coffee Concoction Tandem (SHRM)

June 18, 2010 (Friday)
10:00 - 1:00 PM Market Basket (SHRM)
1:00 - 4:00 PM Chocolate Praline (Truffles) (SHRM)
2:00 - 5:00 PM 3D Towel Poster Design (SHRM)
6:30 - 7:30 PM Mentalism Pair Duo (SHRM)

June 19, 2010 (Saturday)
10:00 - 1:00 PM Mocktail Punch Competition (Interactive)
10:00 - 2:00 PM Artistic Bread (SHRM)
1:00 - 4:00 PM Chef's Attack (SHRM) - pls. Chef
6:00 - 8:00 PM Hair Cut 2010 (Interactive)

June 20, 2010 (Sunday)
10:00 - 1:00 PM Pasta Live Cookery (SHRM)
1:00 - 4:00 PM MM BEX Singing Idol (Grand Finals - SHRM)
4:30 - 6:30 PM Closing and Awarding Ceremonies

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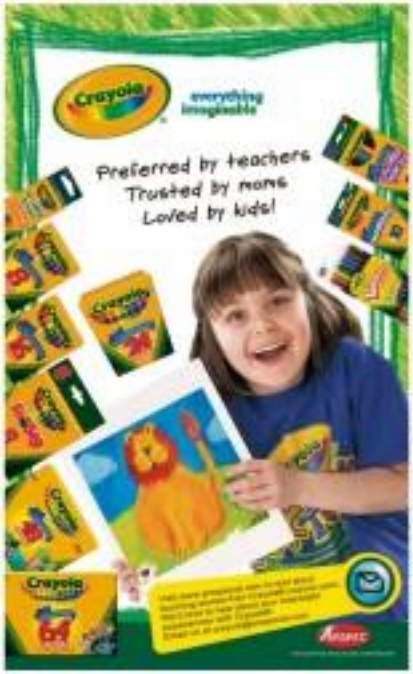

How Cecile de Joya hurdles the complexity of flamenco rhythm

By Tara Rajones Manahan
Contributor

"PUSH YOUR WRIST...WRIST this, wrist that, then unfurl your fingers gracefully... Imitate...like the petals of a flower closing." The giggles quietly obey, amused at her own efforts. She approaches a gangly adolescent struggling with the movement, gently taking her wrist and pushing it to the right direction. Then strokes each digit, guiding each one to the right way of getting the effect she desires, much to the enlightened yet awkward discomfort of the student as she experiences a movement previously alien to her.

Standing 5 feet flat and being 71 years of age has never been an issue for Cecile Carreon de Joya. Whether teaching 6-year-old Indiecos with unwieldy movements, mostly limbsomes with rigid limbs and flesh with lots of their own, or awkward tweens and teens discovering new moves, Teacher Cecile, as everyone calls her, delivers equal dose of all: patiently cajoling, drama and repartee of all ages and sizes through the basic introductory moves of Flamenco.

Under her caring and gentle tutelage have passed some hundred tentot hoi-oversomes and plus-

Dancing is for everyone: three-time-Olympian Frenchman Jean-Pierre Bumpilz, who the Indiecos is dancing to make his

sophie Sharon Tumbarumba Limbers; celebrity Shapes Carmona; "Dancing Goddess" Gary Baron Gomez and his mother, Julie, and daughter Julianne; Aston Singer, wife of the former Spanish ambassador; Bella Dumia and his granddaughters; Lassie Louie; former Bayanihan member Baby Asi; Jess Reimer; Pedie and Gina Sioson's little Sandra; businessman Dante Silvestre; brother Christopher DeBenigno and many, many more. At Centro Flamenco where she teaches, most students in the higher-level classes are Cecile "graduates."

Born of musician parents, Amerenda Aragon, a violinist and Jose V. Carreon, a pianist, music naturally flowed a great part of the Carreon family blood. While in Davao for seven years, Cecile's parents, both music graduates of the UP Conservatory of Music, established the only symphony orchestra composed of non-professional musicians. It was also here where Cecile studied ballet under Carmen Loomis, student of renowned choreographer Agnes Loomis.

Dancing competes, there. Cecile, 6th of the 9th pedis dancer's rules: the balance is reversed to walking. The great Martha Graham never that "in a dancer, there is a reverence for such forgotten things as the intricate of small beautiful bones and their delicate strengths." To Cecile, nothing could be further than this quote. A founding member of the world famous Bayanihan Dance Company, Cecile narrates how, at the start, Bayanihan was simply a getting together of dance students and classmates who would perform for school functions at the Philippine Women's University until one day in 1957, the "company" was formed, whose founding members eventually became stalwarts of Philippine dance and outstanding professionals in their respective fields: Alice Reyes and Eddie Hojar, who would later found the CCP Dance Company; Irene Feller Philippines'), Cora Sorensen Hugo, former director of the Bayanihan Dance Company; Conrado Custodio for Culture and the Arts and who founded the DP ball dance group; interior designer Edith Olivarez; Lina Hipe Shivdasani who was one of the more active members and spokesperson of Bayanihan; former Undersecretary of Human Settlements Jolly Benitez and his sister Amelo; Bobby Perez, who entered the priesthood and became head of San Beda College; Sarsical Artists Laurente Ganzhig and Lucrecia Urrutia, and so many others who became the movers and shakers of their time. Many of them were ballet students of Leonor Orosa Goquingco and Rosario Cantell and her sister Belenita. Al but the dance company's estate Salmeron, with architect Tina Luz Antonio as its costume designing chairman, Cecile and Flordia presented Philippine folk dances for the first time in a theatrical format, the kind of Philippine dance spectacle the Bayanihan Dance Company is famous for all over the world. The following year, the company went on its First European tour to Brussels.

Dance lessons

When at 21 she married Salvador de Joya and subsequently had five children, Cecile continued her dance theater "intermissions and jams with the Alcheper sisters, jane with Jose Dalisi, ballet and jazz with Tony Fabella and Eddie Elejar. Then she discovered flamenco. Because of her eclectic dance background, taking up an unfamiliar dance form was not difficult for Cecile. Only this time, flamenco proved to be a much more challenging and intriguing dance genre. Her first teacher was Dolliestas Romero, fondly known in flamenco circles as "Bethoi" Maul, if not all of the pioneering flamenco dancers and students today have studied under him. Within that time, a visiting flamenco teacher from Mexico, Sylvia Nava, conducted classes in Manila. For the first time, Cecile became fully aware of various flamenco rhythms or "compas," and experienced a new form of flamenco other than the more traditional and classic Bulerias. At the Centro Español, Cecile performed with Nava, dancing to the music of Gipsy Kings. Yet another facet of the dance opened up to Cecile. The musical chord, inherent in her has kept her mind open to the evolution that flamenco is presently undergoing. Today, there is such a thing as Nuevo Flamenco where various variations of movements and music open up many possibilities. Two years ago, for example, noticing that the percussive rhythms of flamenco parallel those of hip-hop, she assisted her young students in choreographing an adaptation of hip-hop flamenco by Bibil, much to her own amazement as well as her students.

Flamenco teacher

Since 1998, Cecile has become a full-time flamenco teacher. Eight years ago, when Jessie Imbada, who is Jaime Bravo's student of Guillermo Castro, formed Pandanera Centro Flamenco along with Madrid-based flamenco Pedis Primitivo and five other flamenco aficionados, Cecile was one of them and was on the faculty as well. Since then, she has faithfully stuck to Saturday mornings at the Centro Flamenco studio, with additional classes within the week.

Every so often, Cecile applies her dance technique by taking classes in ballroom, jazz, ballet at Estrella Carreon de la Carreon in Cecile. On her trips last year, she brought along her daughter Shantal de Joya. Again, the only one of her children who has followed her mother's dancing feet.

Of all the dance forms, she points to flamenco as her favorite. "I approach it with an analytical mind because the compas is unlike other dance forms. They go by 12 counts or 16 counts, and the accents fall differently depending on what compas you are dancing to." Because of the complexity of flamenco rhythms, Cecile is hesitant to analyze steps and movements so she can explain the logic to her students. "I always try to explain to students why the body has to move in a certain direction, the same with the arms. Then I ask them: 'Do you see the difference? Do you feel it?' Then they themselves it with the movement."

With children, the approach is the same like play the maracas a lot of variations in the choreography because children have short attention spans. "I use numbers, rhymes, even musical chairs like when I teach paso doble. I make them march with castanets. I teach

CONTINUED ON

LIFESTYLE Wellness

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How to turn your body into a fat-burning machine—the Atkins way

In the updated version of the classic diet, instead of counting total carbs, you count 'net carbs'

By Rowena C. Bergas

SINCE THE ATKINS DIET WAS introduced in the '70s, critics have been saying there's too little evidence that a low-carb diet is effective, and that a diet so high in fat is unhealthy.

Still, the diet has survived through several revisions, including the latest in the book "The New Atkins for a New You: The Ultimate Diet for Shedding Weight and Looking Great."

Authored by doctors Eric Westman, Stephen Phinney and Jeff Volek, the book maintains the same low-carb principles of the original diet. However, where the original diet may have fallen short on a nutritionist's plate, "The New Atkins for a New You" offers the tools and resources needed to maintain a low-carb lifestyle for life.

Included in the book are more than 50 research studies extolling the benefits of the low-carb lifestyle, as well as all-new recipes, 24 weeks' worth of meal plans and inspiring success stories.

In the book, you will learn how to use wholesome foods that will turn your body into a fat-burning machine. In addition, the tips and suggestions target those with busy lifestyles, ensuring that you can stick with Atkins at work, at home, on vacation or when you're eating out.

Most of your diet will consist of non-starchy vegetables, greens, avocados, seafood, eggs, bacon, butter, cream, meat, cheese, olives and olive oil. As with the original Atkins, foods to avoid include sweet grains, refined breads, foods with added sugar, refined carbs, juices, sweet snacks and sweets.

Fats are friends

Refined carbs and too many carbs—may be the culprit for our universal weight problems, say the authors. Fats, on the other hand, are friends.

"Fat is a more stable energy source than carbs. Carbs increase the production of insulin, which shuts down your body's ability to burn fat," the authors say. "So when you limit carbs, you reduce insulin levels and allow fat more fat burning.

"Studies show that a low-carb, high-fat plan can help you lose weight and reduce the risk for diabetes, heart disease and metabolic syndrome along with improving triglycerides, insulin, glucose and HDL (good cholesterol)."

Per proteins, a variety of animal foods like eggs, meat, fish, poultry, shellfish and cheese is ideal, and there's no need to worry about choosing lean cuts, trimming the fat, or removing the skin. Some low-carb yogurts, nuts and seeds are allowed.

MORE ON PAGES D2

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

A-LIPAN — By JESS ABRERA

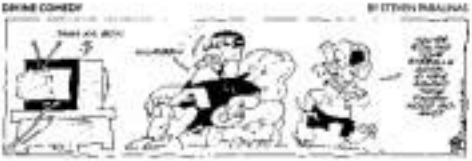
PUGAD BABOY — By Nic Lanuza

DICK TRACY

LOKOMOKOTS — By ELIZABETH CHONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — By ETHAN PABALINAS



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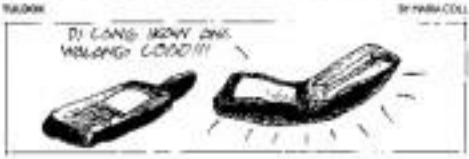

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

KISO MACHINE — By MANDI AMERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

By FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is quite a wonderful day! You're in the mood to both work hard and play hard! Mercury, Uranus and the sun are all in your sign, so you go out and do what you want!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): All activities related to sports will be favored and positive today. Somehow, you can also have some togetherness time. Friendship at home today as well! But gifts for family members is possible for one family.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Communication and romance seem to dominate your day today. You're optimistic and expansive, ideal for relationships, and for one of two, social gatherings.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Business and commerce are favored today. You're especially perceptive and convincing! If you're in sales, you're invincible!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are utterly charming to everyone today. This is a great day to talk to people from other cultures and different backgrounds. You have a keen sense of humor today. You learn more in a couple hours of casual day by practicing psychological education as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're super energetic today! But only if you're doing what you love! Are you in the right job? Are you in the right role considering what you love in the world? What can you do to improve your appearance?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Behind the scenes work and research are favored today. You appreciate the finer things around. Relationships, a friend could have some concern. (Perhaps that's the secret.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Social activities with others will be powerful — and possibly even life-changing — today. You might meet somebody who is extraordinarily fascinating. Romance with a boss also is possible. (Perhaps this is who is married already.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You are friendly and fun-loving today. Alternatively, travel for pleasure and/or study is favored. Your luck with the opposite sex is good.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Transactions might emerge today, but you don't need them. Others are interested in you, but you're not interested in them. Relationships are impressive. Gifts and possible inheritances too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Work to help others will be successful. This is an excellent time to devote time to charity work, self-growth and introspection.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's a great day to work today! You're unusually powerful in dealing with coworkers. You also might come up with some unique ideas to your benefit.

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Concepts Sudoku — By Mark Danes

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Medium Level ★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

How to turn your body into a fat-burning machine—the Atkins way

From page D1

The book states that the new Atkins diet is not a high-protein diet, but it advises that the average woman should get 45 ounces of protein (1.32 grams, equal to a pound of meat); each day and the average man 60 ounces (1.76 grams). (The 18-story Baltimore Intake recommendations are for leaves—65 grams for women and 56 grams for men.)

Instead of counting total carbs on this diet, you count "net carbs," which is total carbs minus fiber and the grams of carbs. Net carbs are the important number, the book says, because fiber doesn't affect blood sugar levels.

Initially, most carbs in this diet come from high-fiber vegetables (just eat two cups cooked non-starchy vegetables plus six cups of leafy greens per day). In later phases, you can gradually increase net carbs from a list that includes low-sugar fruits, tomato juice, high-carb vegetables and legumes. Carb-free snacks, like pork rinds, are allowed.

Dieters avoid alcohol during the first phase, but a cocktail (without juice or sweetened mixers) or glass of wine can be added in later phases.

The book recommends taking a daily multivitamin and mineral with an omega-3 fatty acid supplement.

How it works

The plan has four phases: Induction, ongoing weight loss, pre-maintenance and lifetime maintenance.

Dieters' intake of fats and protein remains relatively steady during all three phases. But carb intakes vary from a low of 20 grams per day during induction to roughly 70 grams in the final phases.

Dieters are urged to drink plenty of fluids because a low-carb diet acts like a diuretic, releasing cellular fluids that contain the essential minerals sodium and potassium.

Plenty of water is also recommended, as protein requires a significant amount of water to process and digest.

No exercise is required, at least initially. Since your body will be adapting to burning fat for fuel, the authors suggest you wait until the later phases before engaging in regular physical activity.

And during the adaptation to fat burning, the book warns, be prepared for unpleasant symptoms such as tiredness, leg cramps and weakness.

Food for thought

While scientific evidence has shown that successful weight loss does cost very widely—and the jury may still be out on saturated fat's role in the diet—many experts still believe a high-fat diet is contradictory to good health.

Following a low carb diet like Atkins may be an option for people who have not been successful on traditional calorie-counting, low-fat diets, but they also may be suited for people who don't metabolize or tolerate carbs well, such as those with metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance, the book says.

Even so, many dieters may find living with carb-small amounts of carbs and large amounts of fat and protein impossible to keep up for the long term.

With maintenance principles firmly established from the beginning of the book, "The New Atkins for a New You" offers an updated and simplified low-carb plan that has helped millions lose weight.

But to avoid nutritious, particularly in the early phases of the diet, as well as to maximum high-fat and high-protein diet plan, may leave many jumping for a spoonful of cereal or a crusty baguette.

So before you embark on the new Atkins diet plan, you're strongly encouraged to consult a doctor.

"The New Atkins for a New You: The Ultimate Diet for Shedding Weight and Looking Great" is available at National Book Store.

Extreme sports challenges highlight CamSur's 331st anniversary celebration

From page D1

celebrate the Bicolano with extreme sports," Villafuerte said.

Describing MTB and rock climbing as the next big thing in Camsur, Villafuerte sought the expertise of American Bill "Quicksilver" Hinchey II, a member of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (Imba), to build MTB trails and rock climbing courses in the region.

The Imba-built MTB race, a 3.6-km high-speed descent designed around the sharp hillside of Mt. Isarog, took an average of four minutes to finish. Starting at Concepcion Pequena parking lot and heading toward the Siete Bueis, the two-day race saw 50 bikers showing off their technical skills as hard turns and single-track maintained trails.

"I love building trails here. It's like a big, blank canvas. The sky's the limit to the things you can do," said Hinchey.

Rodina, amateur and professional, tackled the five-day Tour of Camsur race, which was a test of speed, strength and endurance. Speeding across the provinces of Iriga City and Naga, the race ended with jubilation at the Camsur Legislative Building.

Motocross challenge

The five-timed winnahan weighed in at 200 pounds and folds, jumping in the air with their tough machines during the Motocross Challenge, a simultaneous event of tracks on the concrete race was also seen on the trail during Challenge. The Motocross saw the fictional hour in Camsur in the Battle of the Champs 2005-2009.

"We want to promote Camsur to the sports adventure destination in Asia. These are lifestyle sports. Next year we plan to make the Tour of Camsur, a race from Manila to Camsur," Villafuerte said.

He added families can also have a great time in some of LWC's facilities, such as the Lagoon del Rey with its giant inflatable slides and obstacle course, floating bar lessons boat rides and jet skis.

Cable wake nationals

The highlight, of course, was the much-anticipated 4th Philippine Cable Wake Nationals, where the country's best wakeboarders—males and babes—showcased their best tricks on the cable and rails. Over P300,000 worth of prizes were awarded to the winners, which included 'Mr. Isabewe's son, Miguel, bagging the plaque in the Men's 1 category (19-24 years old).

A weekender competition was also held. Wakeshakers, cable wakeboards, have no bidding. (Wakeboards have both in straps to bind the feet to the board.) The first are free to move on the board—if they manage to stay on the board at all.

Anyone who can make a kick look so easy is a great wakeboarder! I've been here six times and I've seen how it's (pros have improved. Some are already competing international ally, but give it a couple more years and they'll be at par with the best in the world," said the 30-year-old Donald Shellrick, who has been riding since he was 13.

Shellrick was one of three judges at the Philippine Nationals. Wakeboarders and wakeskaters are judged according to the trick (from preformed in flats or without the ramp) and how smooth it is executed.

GOV. LUCY Villafuerte, PAFI Tour of Camsur

LOOK, Ma, no feet!

tan of milk), shoreline (rails) and overall composition.

The Bangsa festival also had the traditional Miss Bangsa beauty pageant, with P100,000 cash prize money, and Hot Rida, a children's cookout pageant, with cash prize of P50,000.

From three flights per week, Villafuerte said Camsur now has eight flights per day. Naga City now has five hotels to accommodate, a not a problem, he added. "There was a time when we had to beg to get operators. Today we have down some of them," Villafuerte said.

Come lunch, Camsur. That area hosts the province was tagged a few years ago. Today, Villafuerte has a new tagline for it. "Come to Camsur, where there's always a happy ending," he said...smiling.

Dance exercise tilt promotes healthy weight, blood pressure

EXCUSE TOLENTINO NANITA Filipinos of all ages to dance.

"Dancing is a fun way to exercise and stay healthy. It helps you lose excess pounds, maintain optimal weight and, as doctors explained, helps control blood pressure," said the 31-year-old celebrity host, dance instructress and mother.

Tolentino was one of the resource speakers during the World Hypertension Day (WHD) press conference held in Quezon City Research-based healthcare company Novartis Philippines Inc. (NPI) partners and is the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) in cooperation with the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN) and Department of Health (DOH) organized the event to mark WHD, with the theme "Healthy Weight, Healthy Blood Pressure."

Novartis and its partners launched the Zumbatastic contest as part of the 2010 WHD celebrations.

Bernard Arcangel, Novartis senior marketing manager for Hypertension Brands, and PSH president Dr. Mahar Aquino agree that the contest aims to the ideal way to promote healthy blood pressure and healthy weight.

"Hypertension and obesity increase a person's risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke. A healthy lifestyle that includes regular physical activity is crucial to preventing cardiovascular disease-related sickness and death," said Aquino.

Cynthia Carlos, Department of Tourism Undersecretary for Sports, Tourism and Wellness agreed.

"We should strive for balance to achieve fitness. Aside from eating a healthy diet rich in vegetables and fruits, allot at least 30 minutes of exercise on most days of the week," said Carlos, a health and fitness advocate who received the Personality of the Year award at the 25th Asia World Fitness Convention held last year in Anaheim, California.

During the press conference, Novartis and its partners launched the Zumbatastic contest which has four categories: former (30 years old and above), Midlifers (35-50 years old) and Young Adults (18-24 years old).

The finalists must video tape their dance exercise routine and e-mail the video file to dancetastic.ph@gmail.com via "yousendit" (log-on to www.yousendit.com) or via courier to the Novartis Health care Philippines, Asian Institute Bldg., Legaspi cor. Salcedo Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Deadline for submission of video entries is June 30.

AIRTIME

MOTOCROSS challenge

Extreme sports challenges highlight CamSur's 331st anniversary celebration

By Anne A. Jardines

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How a house's negative spirits affect its residents

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I JUST RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING urgent text from the daughter of my friend who is a former management consultant but is now an accountant and currently entrepreneur:

"Hi, Jimmy! May I ask for your services and invite you to my parent's house? You see, they've moved into a temporary house while having their own house renovated. There my father had a mild stroke first week of May. In mid-May, my mom was hospitalized for severe infection. Maybe there's an entity in the house."

I replied to her that from the looks of it, there seems to be a pattern that is quite disturbing. Getting sick is, of course, normal and can happen to anybody. But having a series of serious ailments among several members of a family over a short period of time after renovating to a new house can hardly be called normal.

So I asked her to give me the exact address of the house where her parents transferred. I would look at what entities, if any, are there through remote viewing, before I send one of the counselors from our Paranormal Services Group. (By the way, I don't really do this type of remote investigation except for close friends. I usually send a clairvoyant or psychic to the place).

My wife and I were actually in a small restaurant in Greenbelt 5 when she texted. When I got the address through my cell phone, I closed my eyes and tried to get a feeling of the place's energy. I sensed they have a big house but very few rooms. I sensed several negative earthbound spirits inside and outside the house. I waited her to report what I found out.

She said the new house had only a small lawn but their old house had a big one and few trees. I said I must have sensed the old house then. She added that her father felt the old house needed investigation, too.

I then referred the case to a clairvoyant healer near the area. She was my former student who subsequently became a good healer and medical intuitive.

Paranormal expert

This is only one among a number of requests I receive to investigate a house where many phenomena occur. But even if an manifestation of any kind is experienced in the house one is going to move into, it is better to have it checked by a reliable psychic or paranormal expert to be sure it is free of negative spirits. Otherwise, the people who will live there may experience not only health problems but also emotional and psychological disturbances. In some cases, even the fortunes or careers of the people living there may be affected.

The daughter told me that her parents actually had a feng shui expert take a look at the new place before transferring there. He said it had good feng shui. But not all so-called feng shui experts are clairvoyants or can see spirits. So one can still get into trouble in a house with good feng shui but has negative spirits.

Some people may call this point hogwash or mere superstition. They are, of course, entitled to their own opinions. I myself however would not take any chance. Even merely cutting down a big tree may create problems for the owner if the tree is inhabited by entities(ask or nature spirits). So it is best to get the opinion of those who have knowledge and experience in these matters.

Disturbing the dead

I received another text message from a certain Weng asking for an appointment concerning the sudden death of her father. The family members feel there might be some things he might have wanted to tell them which he was unable to. She asked if it were possible to communicate with her father.

As I have very often said in this column, to my radio broadcasts and to my books, I do not advise contacting the dead if there is no manifestation that the dead would like to contact the living. They will only disturb the spirit concerned.

If spirits of the dead do not communicate or manifest themselves to the living, that means they are already at peace in the spirit world and should not be disturbed anymore. Even the Christian Bible prohibits doing this.

However, if the dead manifest themselves strongly that they are still around and would like to say something important to the living, then we should try to receive the message, otherwise the spirit will not rest in peace.

Note: The next Basic ISP & Intuitive Development course will be held June 19-20, 9-6 p.m.-5-p.m. and Saturday, Remote and Precognition on June 26, 1-7 p.m., at Rm. 309 Prince Plaza 1 Cond., Jupiget St., Greenhill, Makati. Call 8187387; cell# 09156940, e-mail jaimelicauco@yahoo.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lira Soriano-G. Velarde

Whip it good: Devo's new, fun-driven CD

LONDON—THE ALTERNATIVE ACT DEVO, BEST KNOWN for its 1980 hit "Whip It," has found a new way to win fans. It is asking them what they want to hear. Singer-co-founder Mark Mothersbaugh said the US band's first album in 20 years, "Something for Everybody," was shaped through an online drive that asked fans for their opinions. The resulting disc bears this stamp. "We penned [our group-approved]." Reuters

'Bossing' around with rock stars

Rock 'n' roll fuels business event

By Pocholo Concepcion
Photos by Rodel Rosero

ROCK 'N' ROLL PUT SPICE TO AN event that was cooked up to encourage businesswomen.

If good business starts with an exciting idea, the guys who thought of tapping rock stars Rico Blanco and Arnel Pineda to usher in the launch of PLDT DSL Nation's "Boosting Ate" campaign Thursday night at the SMC Terraces in Tagaytay hit the right notes.

Music is actually an integral part of the idea—having been overwhelmed by orders and pushed to the "Boosting Ate" theme music for a video, with Pineda as co-singer, which Moreno premiered that night.

The song itself sounded good, with strong rhythm and motivational lyrics that could move the innocent viewer to pick up the phone and do business with the telecom giant.

The company is selling the idea that SMBs (small-to-medium scale entrepreneurs) will be more efficient and thus more profitable if they avail of PLDT's Internet service and controlled phone lines.

If the concept was about entrepreneurs "connecting," the musical performances at the event fostered it.

RICO Blanco teams up with Arnel Pineda (at right) f...

Charice No. 1 for 3rd week

THE TOP-SELLING ALBUMS IN the Philippines for the week May 31-June 6, based on Odyssey Music & Video store chain's nationwide sales reports:

Overall

1) "Charice," Charice, Warner Music; 2) "My World 2.0," Justin Bieber, MCA Music; 3) "Perhaps Love," Nina Segarra, Star Records; 4) "Rise Devil Rises," Cleh Cervantes, Universal Records; 5) "My World," Justin Bieber, MCA Music; 6) "Today's Favorite Lovesongs Unplugged 4," Various Artists, Ivory Records; 7) "Sara," Juris, Star Records; 8) "I Shot 33, Shot OTT6 & Hitwit Thirteen," Various Artists, Star Records; 9) "I Subscribed To Acoustic 2," Various, Viva Music; 10) "BC," BC Concepcion, Sony Music

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GALLERIA

1 THE A-TEAM
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 THE A-TEAM
4 THE KARATE KID
5 THE KARATE KID

6 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
7 KILLERS
8 DMV
9 BARNBOUND
10 SEX AND THE CITY 2

MANILA

1 THE A-TEAM
2 THE KARATE KID
3 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
4 SEX AND THE CITY 2
5 KILLERS
6 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
7 DMV / THE A-TEAM

METRO EAST

1 THE A-TEAM
2 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
3 THE KARATE KID
4 THE A-TEAM
5 SEX AND THE CITY 2
6 DMV
7 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
8 KILLERS

NOVALICHES

1 KILLERS
2 SEX AND THE CITY 2
3 THE A-TEAM
4 THE KARATE KID

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 THE A-TEAM
2 KILLERS
3 SEX AND THE CITY 2
4 THE KARATE KID

STA. ROSA

1 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
2 SEX AND THE CITY 2
3 THE KARATE KID
4 THE A-TEAM

LIPA

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
2 THE A-TEAM
3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
4 FURRY VENGEANCE
5 THE KARATE KID

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE KARATE KID
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 THE A-TEAM
4 SEX AND THE CITY 2

STARMILLS

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
2 SEX AND THE CITY 2
3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
4 DMV
5 THE KARATE KID
6 THE A-TEAM

IMUS

1 DMV
2 THE A-TEAM
3 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
4 THE KARATE KID
5 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
6 BARNBOUND / SEX AND THE CITY 2

ANGELES

1 THE KARATE KID
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 SEX AND THE CITY 2
4 THE A-TEAM

TACLOBAN

1 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
2 THE KARATE KID
3 THE A-TEAM

DUMAGUETE

1 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
2 THE A-TEAM
3 THE KARATE KID

BACOLOD

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
2 SEX AND THE CITY 2
3 THE KARATE KID
4 THE A-TEAM
5 REMEMBER ME
6 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME

ILOILO

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
2 THE KARATE KID
3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
4 KILLERS
5 THE A-Dale
6 DMV / SEX AND THE CITY 2

GENSAN

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 THE A-TEAM
4 THE KARATE KID

ILOCOS NORTE

1 THE KARATE KID
2 THE A-TEAM
3 DMV

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SM MEGAMALL: PRINCE OF PERSIA / THE A-TEAM / SEX AND THE CITY 2 / THE KARATE KID / SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D) / KILLERS / DMV / THE KARATE KID / BARNBOUND

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SM CITY TELABASTAGAN

'Bossing' around...

Front page ► E1

Playing with an eccentric backup band lopsided by loud guitarist Mike Stax and 18-year-old drummer Ralph Pastel, Bianca 'Isa' the crowd in raptures. The music, comedoxy of Showwoman and Bianca's own material, pricked the moons. But even more powerful were the lyrics, some of which captured the essential elements of sweetdd endearment. "King gusto, pet-ating nursing woman."

Pineda, on the other hand, relied on his old Doc band material and offered classic rock covers that turned the corporate event into a party. There was lively dancing on the front rows, the revelers accompanied by employees from Bayan Telecomm.

Earlier, the jokes dumb's boss, Lea Reyes, and 11 other top guns Outbelling Regal Pilsner Member Lily and daughter Brielle Morenoville, Yes, North Path's Raphael and Arnel Imao, Joey Hipposaid's Joey Concepcion joined PLDT's Manny Pangilinan on stage and were introduced as the finalists of the "Burning Ako" competition.

In a sense, the success surprised by these models of good business has also transformed them into overlord-rich zone.

Offstage, lots of food and drinks kept everybody happy.

FRANCESH, No. 5

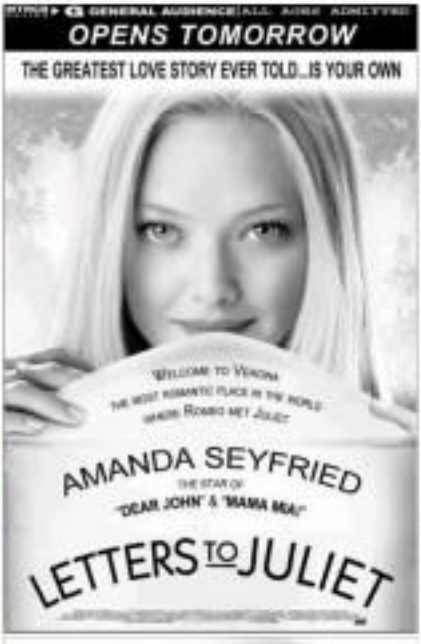
JUKIS, No. 1

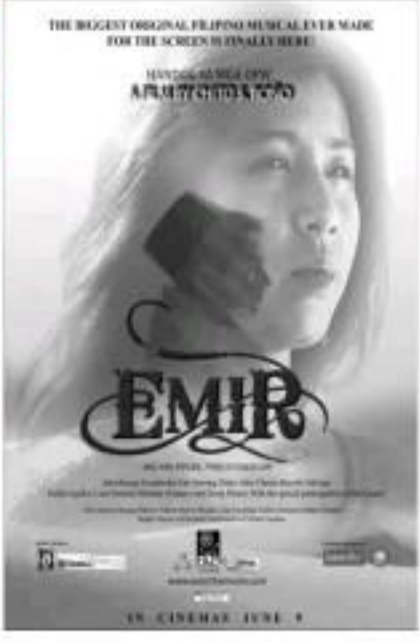
Charice ...

Front page ► E1

OPM

1) "Refuge Love," Star Signatures, Star Records; 2) "Baby's Favorite Lovesongs Unplugged! 3," Various Artists, Star Records; 3) "Stars," Jolo, Star Records; 4) "I Got 13: Best Of TV & Movie Themes," Various Artists, Star Records; 5) "Addicted To Acoustic 2," Princess, Alive Music; 6) "IC," IC Concepcion, Sony Music; 7) "Happy Debut-Dol-Al-Isan," Regine Velasquez, Star Records; 8) "In Love & Vital" Francis Magalona & Flo Rueda, Sony Music; 9) "Rise No Nigs," Nillo Brothers, Star Records; 10) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan," Christian Bautista, Universal Records





Filscap finds new set of hitmakers

By Pachido Concepcion

THE FOLKS AT THE FILIPINO Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (Filscap) believed it was time to find young blood to add more life to the music scene.

Apparently most of the members that Filscap has been collecting in recent years were older but benign composers or just OPM hits. The result was no new local songs to become forever hits and, eventually, moneymakers for the songwriters.

The springboard was the recently held Filscap Songwriting Competition. Out of some 500 aspirants, 12 winners were proclaimed in four categories.

The Grand Prize went to Yeo Bolano, an Ilonggo who also topped the Rock category for his song "Nag-Iisang Bituin," said to be inspired by the tragedy of storm "Ondoy."

He won P100,000 and a trip to Australia to participate in Song Summit 2010 Conference in Sydney.

Excerpts from his e-mail exchange with the Inquirer:

You used to leave a band called Sipol. Whatever happened to it?

The band plays onstage gigs under the musical direction of its founder, Marvin Querido Feliciano (really arranged "Nag-Iisang Bituin"). Sipol recorded an album with GMA Records in 2005. It is currently working on new material for a new record. I also have a new solo album out.

How long have you been writing songs?

I started writing for productions of my high school drama group, Dahong Sibol. Then I did it professionally in 2000 when I became a finalist in the Metro Manila Popular Composers Contest of MBS-ABS. I've been at it for the past 17 years.

How long did it take you to write "Nag-Iisang Bituin"?

It took around two days to finish. I remember being in my room one night, playing the guitar. And then I thought of the first verse. I instantly felt a connection to the melody, so I committed myself to finishing the song.

What kind of hardships have you gone through as a songwriter?

It has always been how to get the music heard. I've given demos of my songs to record labels, producers, artists, song competitions, and other projects. It's really hit and miss.

I've also had problems with delayed royalty payments, perpetual rights issues, etc. But I've learned that it's important to establish good relations and a good reputation in the industry. Respect is earned, not demanded.

Who are your greatest musical influences?

I grew up listening to Filipino bands of the '70s and '80s. Three of my favorites are the Hotdogs, Insakheredes and Tito Sotto. From them, I learned the value of writing and performing your own songs. It is through them 'local' melodies and contemporary lyrics that I developed my own style of songwriting.

Memories of dad

A COLLEAGUE OF MINE asked me if I cried when my dad passed away last month, even if I wasn't that close to him. I stayed with my mom after they separated when I was a teen. How can I not cried then? My dad and I may have drifted apart but in his own way he left an indelible mark in me.

There are many things that only a father can do. I'll keep trying my best to keep the "Carvajal" name he left me with untainted.

In celebration of Father's Day on June 20, I asked some celebs around the fraternity to share with their dads. Here's to the first man in our life, who our will always look up to, no matter how tall we grow.

Angel Locsin: "My dad was the one who taught me how to swim but when I started to compete, I had to be trained by a coach. All throughout my training, I would see my dad standing on the edge of the pool."

Papa Bernardino: "Since my dad was incarcerated, I rarely saw him as a kid. I remember how excited I was on jail visits. The saddest time was going home without him."

Nikolai: "My earliest memory of my dad was when we'd leave home at dawn to go to Antipolo every Sunday for his regular walks around the park."

Amy Perez: "My fondest memory was when we used to go up to Baguio and dad would take us to Camp John Hay [session] [unclear] where he was assigned. I enjoyed playing with the souls [unclear] that disperses chestnuts and eating it a midnight."

Jessie Estrada-Ahrens: "As a kid, I treasure the times with my dad (Gov Ilyng Ilyin) around our village."

John Estrada: "The year my dad had a heart attack 10 years ago marked a recovery. While in the hospital, we had a long talk about life. I told him he's not gonna die because I want a sister."

Christine Reyes: "My priceless memory with dad would be all the times he would go to school. This may be trash to a new sport he loves."

Dawn Arellano: "Years, elementary till high school, my dad would drive Happy Gay' where I entered the school gates. At first I was embarrassed but looking back, I find it lucky to have a dad who's so optimistic."

Aurora Gibbs: "My dad and I still hug and kiss to say hello and goodbye. I cherish all the moments we play golf together."

Ida Pia: "I remember that my dad used to give me toy cars and other stuff that boys love to have. He didn't know that I just love boys, period. He and I are now the best friends because he listens to me on the radio and watches me on TV. Basic nadiginan ng long ng mama ng opposite. Hi ha! Miss guitar."

Miriam Quiambao: "My dad has a guage of love to service. In high school, he would ask us age after a game or a day out with friends."

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